SATURDAY JANUARY 19, 2019 **SINCE 1845** 

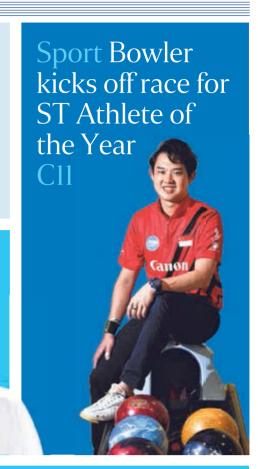
# THE STRAITS TIMES





Business Singapore women still face pay gap

Top of the News Top of the News Ex-terror chief out Tan Cheng Bock on parole forms political soon party A4 **A11** 



Top of the News Bangkok faces worsening haze A13 • Business Challenger goes luxe with latest store C2

#### It was a sight to behold as diver Ocean Ramsey swam next to a female great white shark off the coast of Oahu, in Hawaii. The 6m shark, believed to be one of the biggest on record, made its surprise appearance on Tuesday, joining other sharks that were feasting on a whale carcass off Oahu. Ms Ramsey swam all day with "Deep Blue", the same shark she had previously studied around Guadalupe Island off Mexico and the subject of a documentary several years ago. She said the animal, believed to be at least 50 years old and weighing an estimated 2.5 tonnes, was "shockingly wide", and may be pregnant. Shark populations around Hawaii are declining, and

there are no laws to protect sharks from being killed for their fins. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



# MHA to form tech and science agency to boost security

A new science and technology agency will be formed under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) this year to take charge of research and procurement in areas such as border security and protection of critical infrastructure.

MHA said that "it is looking into setting up an agency to develop science and technology capabilities to support the Home Team's operational needs".

Experts said setting up such an agency is in line with global trends.

Others said the new agency, akin to how the Defence Science and Technology Agency designs and develops capabilities for the Ministry of Defence, would boost Singapore's fight against terrorism.

**SEE TOP OF THE NEWS A8** 

# Singapore eyes F-35 jets to replace ageing F-16 fighters

## RSAF may first buy a small number to evaluate their capabilities before deciding on a full fleet

Lim Min Zhang

Singapore has identified the United States F-35 Joint Strike Fighter as the most suitable aircraft to be its next-generation fighter jet.

The Ministry of Defence (Mindef) said this yesterday as it revealed that the Republic of Singa-

pore Air Force (RSAF) and the Defence Science and Technology Agency have completed their technical evaluation to select the re-

world's most advanced fighter jet. Mindef said the evaluation concluded that the RSAF should first purchase a small number of F-35

placement for the ageing F-16s. The

F-35 JSF has been dubbed the

ISFs for a full evaluation of their capabilities and suitability before deciding on a full fleet.

In the next phase, Mindef will enter into talks with relevant parties in the US before confirming its decision to purchase the fighter jet.

No further details were given on the exact number or variants of the F-35s – manufactured by Lockheed Martin – that will be acquired.

The F-35 has stealth functions that make it difficult to detect by enemy radar. It also has network capabilities in fusing information from other F-35s and friendly forces to build up a picture of the battle space.

There are three variants of the aircraft, including a short take-off and vertical landing version that can land like a helicopter.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen wrote that the talks with US counterparts could take nine to 12 months before a decision is made.

"Even then, we want to procure a few planes first to fully evaluate the capabilities of the F-35 before de-

ciding on the full acquisition of a full fleet," he added.

"We must prepare well and cater enough time to replace our F-16s." Dr Ng pointed out that the RSAF's

F-16s, in service since 1998, will have to retire soon after 2030 even after their mid-life upgrades. "That is not very far away, just

over 10 years, to acquire their replacement and, just as important, to build the logistic support and train pilots individually and as a fleet to guard our skies," he wrote.

Dr Ng added that the technical evaluation took longer than ex-

pected at more than five years. He noted that the delay was because some part of the evaluation could go through only after developmental flight testing of the F-35s was completed early last year.

Options for Singapore's new 4.5 or fifth-generation stealth fighters included the Eurofighter Typhoons, Russian-made Sukhois and

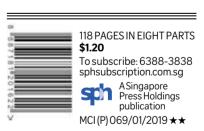
Chinese-made J-20s. Singapore had been observing the F-35 programme since 2004, when it joined as a security cooperation participant.

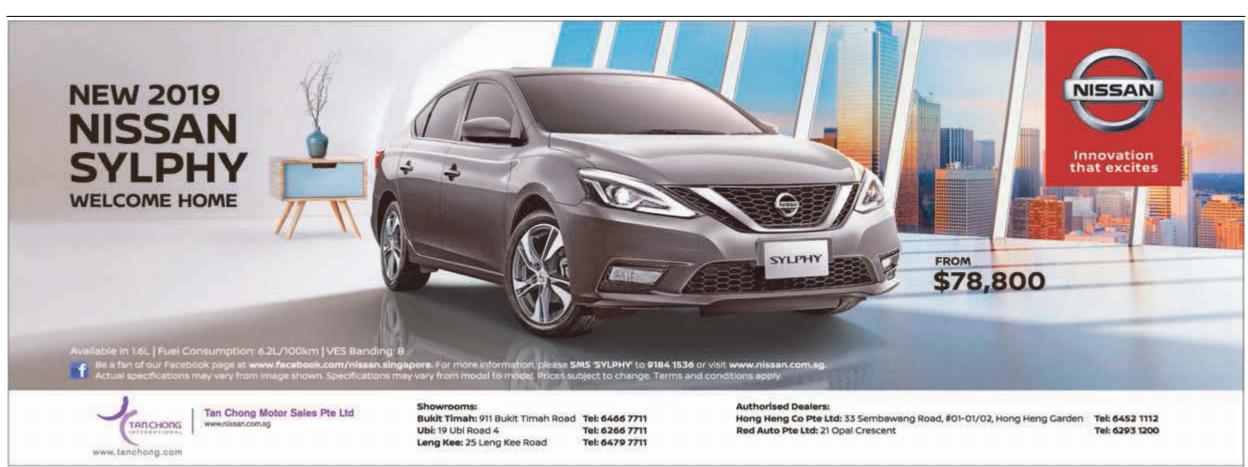
It could join 13 other countries that have signed up for the F-35 programme, including Japan and South Korea in Asia

Mr David Boey, a defence blogger and member of the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence, said the F-35 will "sharpen the air force's operational and technological edge and strengthen our national security".

mzlim@sph.com.sg

**SEE TOP OF THE NEWS A4** 





# must-reads for today

#### 1 Terrorism's many threats

Tanjong Pagar GRC MP Joan Pereira, referring to the news that two people had been issued Restriction Orders under the Internal Security Act, said terrorism is a threat not only to human lives, but also to Singapore's multiracial and multi-religious harmony. She was speaking at a counter-terrorism exercise yesterday at 313@Somerset involving officers from the Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force and some of the mall's management team and tenants, HOME B2



The Emergency Response Force securing the area during yesterday's counter-terrorism exercise at 313@Somerset. ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

#### 2 S'pore eyes F-35 fighter jets

The Republic of Singapore Air Force and the Defence Science and Technology Agency have completed their technical evaluation to select the replacement for Singapore's ageing F-16s. The United States' F-35 Joint Strike Fighter has been identified as the most suitable aircraft for Singapore's next-generation fighter jet. **TOP OF THE NEWS A1** 

#### 3 Top N. Korean visits US

Top North Korean general Kim Yong Chol paid a rare visit to Washington vesterday, where he is expected to meet US President Donald Trump to finalise a new summit aimed at denuclearisation and easing decades of hostility. **TOP OF THE NEWS A6** 

US President Donald Trump forced the cancellation of a trip to Afghanistan by his Democratic opponent and House Speaker, Mrs Nancy Pelosi, and scrapped administration officials' travel to the Davos forum as a government shutdown plunged Washington deeper into deadlock. WORLD A14

#### 5 First film on cave rescue

Thai-born director Tom Waller, who took just weeks to shoot the first film about the dramatic Tham Luang cave rescue of the "Wild Boars" football team, says his focus is on authenticity and the mission's unsung heroes, with book publishers and Hollywood studios jostling to make their versions of the saga. WORLD A26

### 4 Trump cancels Pelosi's trip 6 The future of Afghanistan

President Donald Trump wants United States troops out of a seemingly endless war in Afghanistan. The move will likely draw in more external players to protect their strategic interests, says Institute of South Asian Studies director C. Raja Mohan. **OPINION A36** 

#### Curbs on streaming boxes

Streaming set-top boxes, which provide access to pirated content from all over the world, will soon be harder to get hold of. This year, new legislation will be tabled in Parliament to ban the sale of these boxes. Copyright holders have had little legal recourse to stop retailers of such boxes. **HOME B1** 



PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

# Surbana building global HQ 100 A yen for tranquillity

Urban and infrastructure consultancy Surbana Jurong is building a new campus for its global headquarters in the upcoming Jurong Innovation District. The ground-breaking ceremony for the 68,915 sq m development was held yesterday. BUSINESS C3

#### Golfer's unusual swing South Korean golfer Choi Ho-sung

(left) set the Internet abuzz with his "fisherman swing" last year but was dismissed as a gimmicky showman by critics.

Competing at the SMBC Singapore Open at the Sentosa Golf Club this week, the self-taught 45-year-old defended and explained his unusual style, which helped him win the Casio World Open on the Japan Golf Tour last November. SPORT C15

Learn how a home owner turned his one-bedroom apartment into a tranquil Japanese-inspired home. With restrained execution and uncluttered spaces, his home now reflects a pared-down simplicity that is synonymous with Japanese style. LIFE D8

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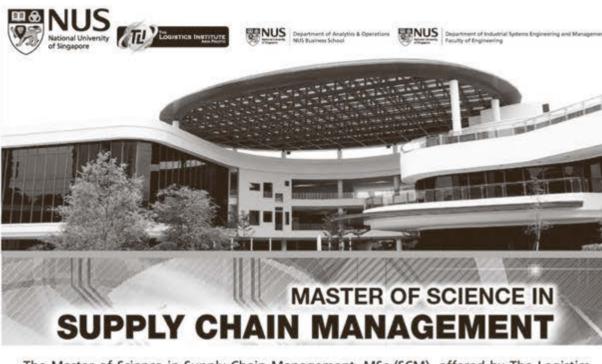
#### **WEB SPECIAL**

Then and now New social media trend 10-Year Challenge involves people sharing a photo of themselves from 10 years ago next to a photo from this year. Here are some posts that have caught our eye. http://str.sg/then-now



#### **PODCAST**

Fighting climate change Today's youth play a pivotal role in tackling climate change. In this Why It Matters episode, we talk to three young people from different parts of the world to find out their motivation for taking climate action. http://str.sg/climateX



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# Starting with a few F-35s a prudent move, say analysts

#### With an F-35B costing \$156m, move will give Mindef time for thorough evaluation and room to manoeuvre

#### **Lim Min Zhang**

The Ministry of Defence's plan to acquire a small number of United States F-35 fighter jets for further evaluation of their capabilities and suitability before a full purchase is a responsible move, said analysts.

Mindef said yesterday that the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) have completed their technical evaluation of the aircraft – a process which took more than five years.

Singapore will now enter into discussions with US counterparts on issues such as the costs, variants, and interoperability of the F-35 with current systems before acquiring "a small number" of F-35s for a full evaluation.

Mr David Boey, a member of Mindef's Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence, said buying a small number first shows Mindef and DSTA are "pacing the acquisition responsibly".

pore to evaluate the fighter thoroughly before introducing it fleetwide, given the F-35's cost. An F-35A costs about US\$89 million (S\$121 million), while the

He said it is prudent for Singa-

short take-off/vertical landing variant, the F-35B, which Singapore is reportedly interested in, costs US\$115 million.

"Previous acquisitions

expanded to formidable strength after the platforms proved their worth," added Mr Boey.

"For instance, the RSAF started with just eight F-16s in the late 1980s and now has a fleet of around 60 F-16s, making this the largest F-16 fleet in South-east Asia."

Mr Mike Yeo, Asia reporter for Defense News website and magazine, said some countries adopted the practice of buying a few before confirming a fleetwide purchase.

"This is not a unique situation, with both the Netherlands and Australia getting an initial two aircraft each for test and evaluation in the US before increasing their respective aircraft orders later," he added.

Senior analyst Kelvin Wong of military publication Jane's by IHS Markit said the completion of the technical evaluation marked the halfway point in replacing the F-16s with the F-35s.

He said: "It is a clever move by Mindef to start with a small number, giving them some room to manoeuvre before committing to a full purchase, should the F-35 programme go wrong."

This is because how the F-35 performs in actual operations is still up in the air. Britain, for instance, declared initial operating capability for its F-35 fleet only earlier this month, said Mr Wong.

The F-35 programme has faced delays, ballooning production costs started with modest numbers were and production flaws in the past.

# F-35 at a glance

Made by Lockheed Martin, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter was designed in three variants. We take a closer look at some features of the F-35B variant that Singapore is reportedly interested in.



#### SHORT TAKE-OFF/VERTICAL LANDING (STOVL) CAPABILITY

The F-35B is the world's first supersonic STOVL stealth aircraft. STOVL allows the plane to take off from shorter runways, hover and land like a helicopter.

Speed: Mach 1.6 Doors open above Combat radius: 833km and below the Two roll posts which force air out **Range:** 1,667km lift fan as through the wings to keep the jet Internal fuel capacity: 6,125kg it spins up Max g-rating: 7.0 Weapons payload: 6,800kg 15.6m

Three-bearing swivel nozzle The exhaust nozzle, provided by Rolls-Royce, swivels 110 degrees

downwards from the horizontal to

provide vertical thrust

Lift fan The lift fan system forces air downwards and is driven by a shaft off the main engine

Source: LOCKHEED MARTIN PHOTO: LOCKHEED MARTIN STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

In October last year, the Pentagon temporarily suspended operations of its fleet of F-35 fighter jets for 24 to 48 hours to check for possible faulty fuel tubes in the engines of the planes. This came after the craft in local conditions is therefore mzlim@sph.com.sg

first F-35 crashed near the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina a month earlier. The pilot survived after ejecting.

"Extended evaluation of the air-

prudent, especially since the actual cost of sustaining it in the long term is still not yet fully understood," said Mr Wong.

**Specifications** 

# Tan Cheng Bock, ex-PAP cadres set up new political party

Rachel Au-Yong **Political Correspondent** 

Former People's Action Party (PAP) MP Tan Cheng Bock has taken the first formal step to form a political party, a move analysts and former MPs said could lead to a tough electoral contest in the western part of Singapore at the next general election.

Dr Tan, a six-term MP who retired from politics in 2006, applied to register the Progress Singapore Party on Wednesday.

Yesterday, he said in a Facebook post that the prospective party comprises 11 other "like-minded Singaporeans".

He declined to name them, but said in his post that some members were former cadres of the ruling PAP. When contacted, his spokesman said all will be unveiled at a media conference later.

Dr Tan, 78, had run under the PAP banner in the former singleseat constituency of Ayer Rajah since he entered politics in 1980.

In his 26-year political career, he had regularly been among the PAP's top vote-getters. He was also the rare backbencher who had been elected into the PAP's top decision-making body, the Central **Executive Committee.** 

After Dr Tan quit politics in 2006, he continued to be vocal about issues and policies he disagreed with.

In 2011, he contested the fourway presidential election but lost to PAP-backed Tony Tan Keng Yam by a narrow margin of 7,382 votes.

Dr Tan said in his post that "the decision to go on our own was not an easy one", adding that he had studied various options, such as joining an existing opposition party and contesting as an independent.

Still, he and his team "look forward to working with others in the opposition who are passionate about putting country first before either party or self", he said.

Noting his age, Dr Tan said he has a short window which he intends to use to develop future MPs.

He added: "We want to build a compassionate and truly democratic Singapore where good values and people matter. Freedom of choice and free speech without fear must be defended."

The Singapore Democratic Party said yesterday that it looks forward "to work with him to strengthen the opposition and bring our nation one step closer to democracy".

According to the Registry of Societies website, the average processing time for registering a society under the normal process is around two months.

Dr Tan's announcement did not surprise political analysts and former politicians interviewed. All of them pointed to the many hints he gave last year, including announcing his retirement as a general practitioner online and saying he looked forward to serving Singapore in a new way.

He had also posted on his Facebook page a picture of him having breakfast with Mr Lee Hsien Yang, the estranged younger brother of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, in November last year. They were eating at a hawker centre in Dr Tan's former constituency.

Last July, he attended a meeting of opposition politicians, and confirmed later that he had been invited to lead a coalition of seven opposition parties.

Observers, like Institute of Policy Studies' deputy director Gillian Koh, said his success depends on several factors, including who his running mates are.

She said that he is likely to "build up his base rather quickly as long as he does not have too many controversial characters in his founding circle".

Former PAP MP Inderjit Singh said Dr Tan's star power may not be enough to win a GRC, which many expect him to contest.



Dr Tan Cheng Bock greeting supporters at a 2017 event. Dr Tan, a six-term MP who retired from politics in 2006, applied to register his Progress Singapore Party on Wednesday. He said it comprises 11 other "like-minded Singaporeans". ST FILE PHOTO

Mr Singh said: "He needs a sure win, especially at his age. If he is contesting in a GRC, at least one of his teammates should be a known entity or a strong candidate. It is good if he can attract some former MPs." Mr Singh was quick to add that he was "not considering active politics at this point in time".

Another former PAP MP, Mr Yatiman Yusof, who was a senior parliamentary secretary, said there is a difference between contesting a GRC and a presidential election, which is "more personality-focused".

There was also the spillover effects from the May 2011 GE, which took place around three months before the presidential election.

"The unhappiness was still there and he exploited that, and he coupled that with his track record to gain support," Mr Yatiman said.

"The coming election is different. Singaporeans desire to have the 4G leadership usher them into a new era, and the discerning ones may feel that is a more major issue than having another opposition."

The next general election must be held by April 2021.

Ms Foo Mee Har, the PAP MP in

In his 26-year political career, he had regularly been among the PAP's top vote-getters. He was also the rare backbencher who had been elected into the PAP's top decision-making body, the Central **Executive Committee.** After Dr Tan quit politics in 2006, he continued to be vocal about issues and policies he disagreed with. In 2011, he contested the four-way presidential election but lost to PAP-backed Tony Tan Keng Yam by a narrow margin of 7,382 votes.

the Aver Rajah ward that is now part of West Coast GRC, could not be reached for comment.

Observers were divided on whether Dr Tan's move may prompt some PAP cadres to break away. Mr Singh said: "Greater effort will

now be needed from the party leadership to ensure the PAP's strong base of activists is not shaken." Former Nominated MP Zulkifli Baharudin, however, said the news

may strengthen the incumbents. "If you are running the PAP, you want to be sure that whoever is with you is ideologically strong and not one who gets distracted by the

people outside," he said. He added that Dr Tan's most immediate challenge is convincing people that he is departing from the PAP to champion a certain cause. Part of that task may involve reaching out to those who will see his

move as a betrayal. As Mr Yatiman put it: "Dr Tan has every right as a Singaporean to set up a party, but he should not forget that he became known through the PAP."

rachelay@sph.com.sg

SUPPORT NOT A SURE THING

The operative word is 'had' – it all depends on how his operation moves, the current MPs in the wards he is fighting and how people view him, now that he has changed sides.

FORMER SPEAKER ABDULLAH TARMUGI, who also sits on the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, saying that the support Dr Tan had enjoyed in 2011 was not necessarily in the bag.

MAY RETURN TO OLD WARD

I would expect that he will return to his old stomping ground in the West Coast area and ride on the political capital that he has had there.

STRONGER TEAM WITH EX-MPs

INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES

He needs a sure win, especially at his age. If he is contesting in a GRC, at least one of his teammates should be a known entity or a strong candidate. It is good if he can attract some former MPs.

FORMER PAP MP INDERJIT SINGH

A NEED FOR FOOT SOLDIERS

(The new party needs) a substantial number of foot soldiers prepared to do door-to-door canvassing to reach out to voters who are politically indifferent. This is what most of the minor parties still do not have.



POLITICAL OBSERVER DEREK DA CUNHA



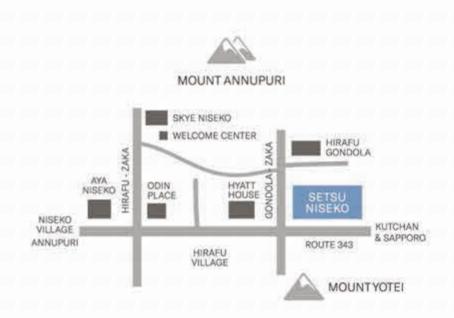
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# Kim's right-hand man in US to set stage for summit



Top North Korean general Kim Yong Chol arriving at the airport in Beijing en route to Washington on Thursday. He is the first North Korean dignitary in nearly two decades known to have spent the night in the US capital. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

## He is expected to hold talks with Pompeo and President to finalise new Trump-Kim summit

WASHINGTON • A top North Korean general paid a rare visit yesterday to Washington, where he is expected to meet United States President Donald Trump to finalise a new summit aimed at denuclearisation and easing decades of hostility.

Mr Kim Yong Chol, a righthand man to leader Kim Jong Un, is the first North Korean dignitary in nearly two decades known to have spent the night in the US capital, little more than a year after Mr Trump was threatening to wipe the totalitarian state off the map.

Under light snow, Mr Kim Yong Chol and his entourage were seen exiting a motorcade and, without comment, entering a fashionable hotel in the lively Dupont Circle neighbourhood.

The State Department confirmed that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would meet Mr Kim Yong Chol yesterday.

A US source, who could not be identified as the exact schedule has not been announced, said Mr Pompeo would invite Mr Kim Yong Chol to an early lunch before the two likely head together to the White House, a short drive away.

Mr Trump has voiced optimism after receiving what he called a warm New Year's letter from Mr Kim Jong Un, and has opined that the two leaders are "in love".

Mr Trump has repeatedly voiced eagerness to see the North Korean leader again after their landmark summit in Singapore last June, the first meeting between sitting leaders from the two countries that never formally ended the 1950-1953 Korean War.

Tensions began to abate a year ago, with the encouragement of South Korea's dovish government.

Mr Trump has repeatedly hailed his diplomacy as a triumph, saying recently that there would have been "a nice big fat war in Asia" if it were not for him.

He has said one can expect an announcement soon about the second summit, with diplomats seeing Vietnam and Thailand as possible venues.

Mr Pompeo, in a recent interview, voiced hope at reaching a deal with North Korea that would "create a much better, safer America", but cautioned that it was unlikely to be finished during the next summit.

A diplomatic source told Reuters yesterday that high-ranking diplomats from the US and North Korea were now holding talks in Sweden.

"They are meeting over the weekend," the source said, adding that the delegations included North Korean Vice-Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui and US Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun.

According to the Dagens Nyheter daily, the meeting started on Thursday and will continue at the weekend. Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom is also meeting the diplomats.

The purpose of the meeting is to continue to build on the last summit in Singapore, the Dagens Nyheter reported.

Meanwhile, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc has said his country is willing to host the second Trump-Kim summit.

Vietnam has cropped up in the swirl of rumours and conjecture over a possible site for the meeting, with the capital Hanoi or the coastal city of Danang seemingly the most likely bases for the summit.

Mr Phuc said on Thursday that he would be open to hosting it. "We don't know the final decision. However, if it happens here, we will do our best to facilitate the meeting," he told Bloomberg TV.

A Vietnamese government source who wished to remain anonymous said logistical preparations were under way for a Trump-Kim summit, although no official decision had been made.

"There is lots of work to be done, not only for Danang, but also some other locations for the event. The Vietnamese side is ready to host... but it is not up to us to decide.'

Like several other South-east Asian countries, Vietnam maintains diplomatic ties with both communist-run Pyongyang and Washington, and is keen to host major global events as it tries to project a more confident global profile.

Communist Vietnam hosted a major Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Danang in 2017 attended by global leaders, including Mr Trump.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS

**News analysis** 

# Second summit must yield mutual concessions, say experts



**Chang May Choon** 

South Korea Correspondent In Seoul

With a North Korean delegation visiting Washington to set the stage for a second summit between United States President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the big question is what both sides can bring to the negotiating table this time around.

Nuclear talks have stalled as the US insists on maintaining sanctions and pressure, while Mr Kim, as he said in his New Year's Day speech, would like to see corresponding US action that can include economic concessions and a complete stop to the US' joint drills with security ally South Korea.

Unlike the historic first Trump-Kim meeting in Singapore that was high on optics, the second one must yield something more tangible such as mutual

concessions, experts said. "The key issue is about

determining which issues are negotiable and can be adjusted, and which issues are non-negotiable," Dr Graham Ong-Webb of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies told The Straits Times.

East Asia expert Lim Tai Wei of the Singapore University of Social Sciences said the Trump administration will probably push for "some semblance of timetable or schedule for gradual, phased initial

steps towards denuclearisation". North Korea, on the other hand, could push for early rewards, which could be monetary or light relief of some sanctions. Such rewards can "further cement Chairman Kim's already boosted status as the first North Korean leader to meet a sitting US president", he told ST.

In return, Dr Lee Seong-hyon of the Sejong Institute think-tank said, Pyongyang might reiterate its earlier promise to destroy its main Yongbyon nuclear facility and Tongchang-ri missile engine test site. "I don't think North Korea will hand over the list of nuclear inventory this time, but there might be a deal to partially give up its ICBMs," he told ST, referring to : intercontinental ballistic missiles

capable of striking the US

Dr Hoo Chiew Ping of the National University of Malaysia said negotiation between the US and North Korea is probably stuck over the details of denuclearisation steps such as nuclear inventory declaration and verification.

This could be overcome if Mr

Trump is willing to give "assurance to withdraw certain types of strategic forces" deployed in South Korea, but she reckons that Mr Kim will probably aim to "once again bypass these difficult details and secure non-substantive progress that the US President would

consider as 'victory' and 'positive'" Dr Lee Sung-yoon, professor of



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and United States President Donald Trump exchanging a handshake at a meeting held at Capella Singapore last June, : during the leaders' historic first summit. ST FILE PHOTO

Korean studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, warned against Mr Trump being "seduced into making more and more concessions without getting anything of substance in return".

"I believe Trump is amenable to concluding a peace agreement and phased withdrawal of US troops from the South in return for illusory concessions like a fake weapons inventory list, shutting down an exhausted test site, factory or reactor, while uranium enrichment, bomb-building and missile

production forge on," he said. But Dr Ong-Webb said making concessions would "signal that the US is willing to move away from an all-or-nothing approach to the CVID (complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation) model in which North Korea is rewarded only after denuclearisation, in its totality, is completed, to a more flexible arrangement".

Another way to speed up the process, he said, would require the North to ship its nuclear arsenal to external custodianship under the US or International Atomic Energy Agency in return for "ironclad guarantees that the North Korean regime will not only remain in power, but also receive a package of : Nirmal Ghosh in Washington

security and economic goodies it cannot refuse". "This would be a more time-saving approach but will entail some really significant realignment of policy," he said.

Some analysts remain sceptical that the second Trump-Kim summit can move the denuclearisation process forward.

Dr Vipin Narang, associate professor of political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of its Security Studies Programme, said the most likely outcome would be "summit theatre: a reiteration of Singapore with maybe some cosmetic enhancements, but largely more of the same".

"This would keep the diplomatic process going at the high level in order to allow Trump to claim 'no rockets and nuclear tests' and Kim to continue to grow the programme, giving little up in return," he told ST. "This would essentially kick the can down the road for Trump. Kim would pretend to disarm and Trump would continue to pretend to believe him."

changmc@sph.com.sg

Additional reporting by

# US analysts locate 6 factories possibly linked to N. Korea's missile programme

SEOUL • Over the years, outside analysts have closely followed visits by North Korean leaders to factories, farms and military units to discern the regime's policy priorities.

The sleuthing is challenging: North Korean state news media often withholds the locations of these sites and their purposes, identifying them only by the names of their managers.

Now, two analysts based in the United States have located six such factories believed to be linked to

North Korea's missile programme, visits to which by the country's leaders were deliberately obscured by state news media to thwart Washington's intelligence-gathering or cyber attacks.

The factories and their operations were discovered through a painstaking digital examination of open-source data.

"North Korea may be reluctant to share those locations precisely to make them harder to target," Mr Jeffrey Lewis, an expert on North

Korea at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, said in a report published on Thursday.

"In other cases, however, the visits may have been related to the development of new missilerelated systems that North Korea was not yet prepared to reveal."

The report about the sites comes as US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepares to meet North Korea's nuclear negotiator Kim Yong Chol to discuss steps towards denuclearisation in the North that could lay the groundwork for a second meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Mr Lewis worked with his colleague David Schmerler, often matching videos and photographs released by the North's state news media with commercial satellite imagery and details from visits by North Korean leaders to known factory sites.

Their report included map coordinates for the six plants, three of which turned out to be next to sites of important missile tests overseen by Mr Kim.

Since he took power in 2011, Mr Kim has rapidly accelerated his country's missile programme, which culminated in a series of test flights of its Hwasong-14 and Hwasong-15 long-range missiles in 2017, some of them believed to be capable of reaching North America. At his meeting with Mr Trump last

June in Singapore, Mr Kim vowed to work towards the complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula if Washington met his conditions, such as lifting sanctions and providing security guarantees.

But while he is engaged in diplomacy, Mr Kim has yet to announce a timetable for dismantling his nuclear arsenal. Instead, his country is still operating its missile bases and is suspected of continuing to improve its missile capabilities, despite Mr Trump's claims of progress in efforts to denuclearise the North.

The work by Mr Lewis and Mr Schmerler helps unveil the secretive nature of the North Korean missile programme. US intelligence officials believed

moured vehicles, light aircraft, machine tools or textiles. But until now, their probable links to the North's missile programme had not been publicised. North Korea keeps many of its

some of the plants produced ar-

weapons-related facilities underground to protect them from outside monitoring or attacks in case of war. One factory the researchers located was believed to have two campuses, with the underground portion hidden near a textile plant.

"In some cases, Kim was visiting factories that are largely located underground and the effort was likely an effort to keep the location of the underground plant a secret," Mr Lewis said. NYTIMES

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Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee chatting with Singapore Symphony Orchestra music director Lan Shui and his wife Liu Lin Lin at the Esplanade last night. With them is SSO founding member Lynnette Seah. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN



# Place for the arts in S'pore, PM says as SSO marks 40th year

#### **Jolene Ang**

There is a place for arts and culture in Singaporeans' lives, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said yesterday.

He was at a concert to mark the 40th anniversary of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO).

In his message in the concert programme booklet, PM Lee said: While it is important that we put bread to the table, man does not live by bread alone.'

"Our nation would be soul-less without an appreciation of arts and culture. Our founding fathers believed a symphony orchestra would enrich our culture and show the world that Singapore aimed to be a gracious society," he added.

The gala event at the Esplanade Concert Hall featured Singaporean pianist Lim Yan as the concerto soloist. He performed Charles Ives' The Unanswered Question and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, which were played at the SSO's inaugural performance in 1979.

The SSO, led by music director Lan

Shui, also performed Dayong Sampan Overture, the first local work played by the orchestra in 1980. It was written by the late Leong Yoon Pin, who in 2000 became SSO's first composer-in-residence.

In the past 40 years, the orchestra has gone from an aspiring ensemble of 41 musicians to a fullstrength orchestra of 92 musicians, half of whom are Singaporean. It

performs about 100 concerts a year.

Mr Goh Yew Lin, chairman of the Singapore Symphony Group that manages the SSO, paid tribute to the orchestra's founding patron and former deputy prime minister Goh Keng Swee, saying "music lovers in Singapore owe him a huge debt of gratitude". "His plans for SSO were ambitious, far-reaching, meticulous and long-term in nature," he added.

PM Lee said: "Forty years on, the SSO is a fixture in our cultural firmament... The SSO continues to bring joy to Singaporeans from all walks of life, making sure that its music is not just enjoyed by a select few."

# New science, tech agency to boost national security

#### Outfit under MHA will develop capabilities to support Home Team's operational needs

Lim Min Zhang

A new science and technology agency will be formed under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as part of efforts to build up national security capabilities, The Straits Times has learnt.

The agency, planned to be set up this year, will be responsible for research and procurement in areas such as border security and protection of critical infrastructure.

MHA confirmed to ST on Wednesday that "it is looking into setting up an agency to develop science and technology capabilities to support the Home Team's opera-

tional needs".

An MHA spokesman said: "These capabilities will strengthen the Home Team's ability to carry out its mission of safeguarding Singapore. We will announce more details when ready.'

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies research fellow Gra-

ham Ong-Webb said that MHA's intention to set up such an agency is in line with global trends among developed countries.

He said: "I would argue that the existence of such an agency would add value to Singapore's national security and safety infrastructure managed by Singapore's law enforcement agencies, in the same way the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) sharpens our national defence infrastructure managed by the Ministry of Defence (Mindef)."

He added that while there is the Office of the Chief Science and Technology Officer within MHA, having a dedicated agency would "shape indigenous capabilities in protective and response systems that are the best fit for our country's needs".

Other experts interviewed said investments in science and technology could boost Singapore's fight against terrorism.

Singapore-based counter-terrorism expert Yaniv Peretz said advancements in technology have given terrorists new opportunities, such as the use of commercial drones to carry out attacks, as seen in Syria.

"Even terrorists' use of low-tech weapons such as vehicle-ramming and knife attacks requires us to develop new methods and techniques for the protection of key installations and public places to mitigate and prevent the various evolving threats," he said.

MHA is responsible for homefront and internal security, including counter-terrorism, and crisis and consequence management. The ministry's budget has grown in recent years, from \$3.177 billion in FY2012 to about \$6.5 billion in FY2018.

Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam disclosed during the debate on his ministry's budget in March last year that a large part of the increase in the budget for 2018 would go into boosting Singapore's counter-terrorism capabilities.

Two outfits currently carry out research and development in the security field for Mindef.

The DSTA, a statutory board under Mindef, designs and develops capabilities such as weapon and IT systems for the ministry.

DSO National Laboratories, Singapore's largest defence research and development outfit, supports national defence as the technology partner of the Singapore Armed Forces. It also develops technologies that protect national security.

mzlim@sph.com.sg

jolenezl@sph.com.sg MHA is responsible for crisis and consequence

home-front and internal security, including counter-terrorism, and management. The ministry's budget has grown in recent years, from \$3.177 billion in FY2012 to about \$6.5 billion in FY2018.

# In your Sunday Times tomorrow

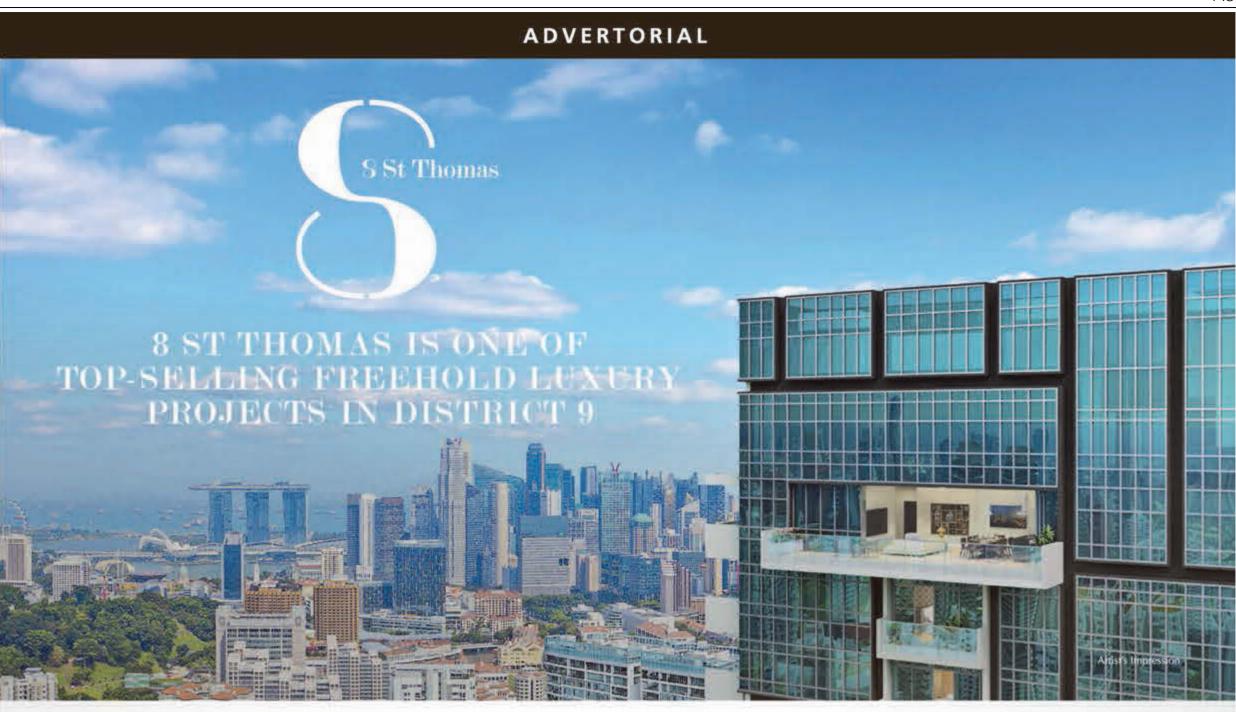








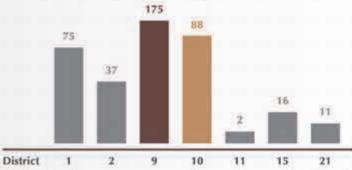




# DEMAND FOR ONE OF SINGAPORE'S FINEST LUXURY PROPERTIES ON THE RISE

District 9, a prime residential neighbourhood encompassing River Valley and Orchard, saw the highest volume of sales in Singapore's Core Central Region (CCR) this year. The district continues to draw strong interest from foreign investors and home buyers alike: of the 175 recorded transactions to date, 110 were attributed to Chinese and Indonesian buyers.

#### Luxury Property Segment (Jan - Nov 2018)



The above data shows property transactions that are equal or more than \$2,500 psf (Jan – Nov 2018). Source: PropNex Research, URA Realis

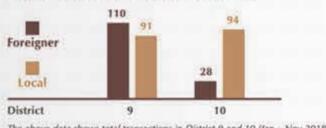


At the same time, demand from Singaporean buyers in District 9 remains strong. The proportion of Singaporean buyers rose to 63 per cent in Q3 2018, up from 58 per cent in the first half of the year.

Separate research by ERA also shows that, from July 2018 to November 2018, the proportion of buyers for properties worth \$2 million and above rose by 64 per cent, in Singapore's Core Central Region (CCR). This was up from 50 per cent in 2017.

In the same period, 43 per cent of new sales were transacted at above \$3,000 per square foot.

# Buyer's Profile in District 9 and 10



The above data shows total transactions in District 9 and 10 (Jan – Nov 2018). Source: PropNex Research, URA Realis

#### Rare Brand New Freehold Development, Ready for Immediate Occupancy

8 St Thomas, situated along River Valley Road, is ideally positioned to capture buyers eyeing the area.

Key Executive Officer for ERA, Mr Eugene Lim, observed: "Located in one of the most prestigious areas and just off Singapore's premier shopping belt, Orchard Road — [and] together with its freehold tenure — 8 St Thomas is a popular choice among the affluent, either for occupation or investment purposes.

"With prices starting at \$1.457 million for a one-bedroom unit and \$1.799 million for a two-bedroom unit, it makes this the perfect opportunity to own a property with a coveted District 9 address."

Developer for 8 St Thomas, Bukit Sembawang Estates Limited (BSEL), noted that more than half the released units have been sold. This makes it the top-selling new freehold luxury project in Orchard, with more than 18 units sold in November 2018 alone.

"Buyers are more discerning nowadays," said Lee Sze Teck, Head of Research for Huttons Asia.

"They will choose to invest in projects that offer them the best value for money. 8 St Thomas is one project that fits the bill of outstanding design, superior locational attributes, and excellent growth potential."



# Eco-Paradise with Sweeping Views of the City

8 St Thomas consists of two tower blocks, with apartment sizes from 441 square feet (one bedroom) to 1,744 square feet (four bedrooms, dual-key), and penthouses that reach a spacious 2,659 square feet. These homes offer a breathtaking view of the Marina Bay Sands and Orchard Road skyline. Each apartment also features a Home Automation System, with smart lighting controls in the living room, dining room, and master bedroom.

Besides the usual suite of condominium facilities such as a pool and gym, 8 St Thomas also offers six sky terraces, gourmet dining, cocktail lounges, and a children's discovery deck.

Chief Executive Officer of Edmund Tie & Company, Ong Choon Fah, stated, "This urban oasis provides a much-needed respite for residents who respect the environment and value both convenience and privacy."

8 St Thomas has an energy and water-efficient design: common areas allow for natural light by day, while lights are triggered by motion sensors at night. Rainwater is collected, filtered, and used for irrigation, while washing machines are fitted with water-efficient features. The luxury condominium is also one of few developments in Singapore that provides green lots, for the charging of electric cars.



Located just minutes away from Orchard Road, 8 St Thomas is currently serviced by the nearby Somerset MRT station. The upcoming Great World MRT station — scheduled to open in 2021 — will only be around five minutes away by foot.

#### Multi-Award Winning Development

8 St Thomas has won several distinguished awards, including the New York Design Awards (Gold), BCA Green Mark (Gold), and Asia Property Awards (Best Luxury Condo Development and Best Luxury Condo Architectural Design).

The New York Design Awards promote buildings that show excellence in design and conservation. Judges described 8 St Thomas as "a prime located, high-rise property with a bespoke Mondrian-inspired façade, generous balconies and extensive landscaping" and "a sanctuary in the heart of District 9 in Singapore".



# Attractive Flexible Payment Schemes

Bukit Sembawang Estates Limited (BSEL) offers several attractive payment schemes to suit your needs.

# Stay-and-Pay Scheme\*

This most popular scheme allows buyers to make an initial payment of just 20 per cent and move in immediately. The remaining 80 per cent can be paid by 31st October 2020. (By contrast, regular home loans require a down payment of at least 25 per cent, since the implementation of recent policy measures).

# Reservation Scheme\*

You can also opt to reserve the apartment of your choice through the Reservation Scheme, where you'll only need to place a 10 per cent deposit to reserve the unit till 31st October 2019.

These payment schemes are beneficial to buyers who are awaiting the sales proceeds from their former home, such as buyers who moved out due to an en-bloc sale.

Chief Executive Officer of PropNex Realty, Ismail Gafoor, said: "In any investment, one of the key considerations is setting the right entry price and complementing it with a potential capital appreciation.

"With 8 St Thomas being positioned in one of the most sought-after districts in Singapore, its desirable qualities and appealing price payment features are more than capable of captivating prospective buyers and investors."

Due to the scarcity of freehold properties in land scarce Singapore, let alone in an almost 1-hectare land space of District 9, 8 St Thomas has the potential to hold or grow its value far into the future. This is an enticing prospect for investors, and for home buyers who want to leave a legacy for future generations.

8 St Thomas is an ideal opportunity in Singapore's globally regarded luxury property market; but supply is limited in the exclusive, bespoke development.

For the pleasure of ownership, visit bsel.sg/8stthomas or call 6950 0333.

\*Terms and conditions apply.

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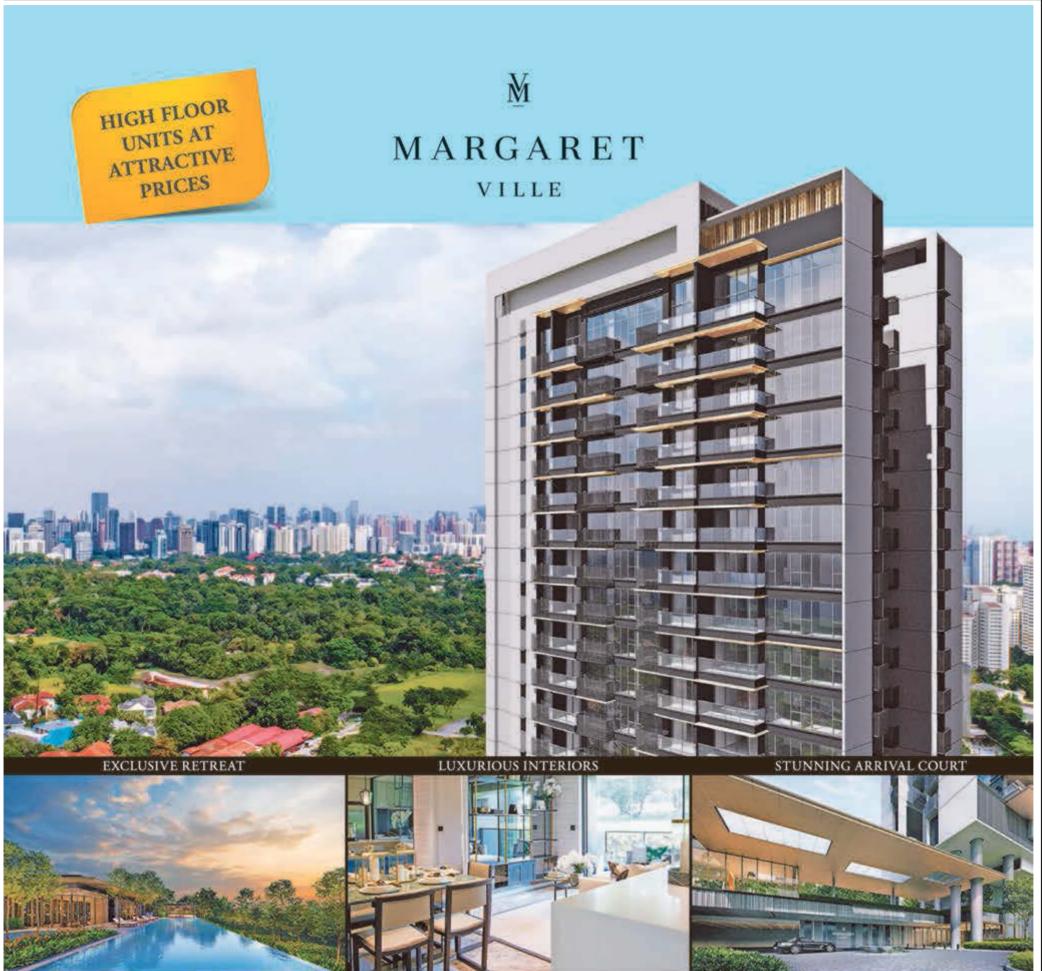
HOMES FOR EVERY GENERATION

# Lim Chuan Poh of A\*Star retiring from public service



Mr Lim Chuan Poh (left), who has been in the public service for 38 years, is retiring on April 1. Permanent Secretary for **Education Chan** Lai Fung will be appointed A\*Star's non-executive chairman on April 1. ST FILE PHOTO

Appointment of new CEO to be announced in due course: Ministry



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Foreigners Eligible

#### Timothy Goh and Chang Ai-Lien

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*Star) chief Lim Chuan Poh is retiring from the public service on April 1, ending months of speculation that he would be stepping down from the top spot of Singapore's largest public-sector research agency.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) announced the 57-yearold's retirement yesterday, just hours after most staff were informed in an internal e-mail that their chairman would be leaving.

Permanent Secretary for Education Chan Lai Fung, 55, will be appointed the agency's non-executive chairman on April 1.

A new chief executive officer will

assume A\*Star's executive leadership role and responsibilities, MTI said in a statement.

Details of this appointment will be announced "in due course", said the ministry.

Ms Chan has extensive public-sector experience that spanned many different portfolios, which makes her "well-placed to lead A\*Star in charting its strategic directions and priorities for future growth and development", said MTI.

Mr Lim has been in the public service for 38 years.

Under his stewardship, A\*Star spearheaded mission-oriented research in Singapore. This not only advanced scientific discovery and technological innovation, but also created economic growth and improved the lives of Singaporeans, MTI said.

Mr Lim further led A\*Star to play a critical role in Singapore's research innovation and enterprise landscape by working closely with public-sector agencies, research institutes, universities, hospitals and private enterprises, among others.

He oversaw the formation of many long-term strategic partnerships between A\*Star and global industry leaders, which led to several state-of-the-art research facilities being set up in Singapore and the creation of good employment opportunities for Singaporeans.

Minister-in-charge of the Public Service Chan Chun Sing said Mr Lim, who was also a former chief of defence force, had served with distinction and made impactful contributions in the military as well as Singapore's science and technology ecosystem.

Mr Chan said: "He helped to evolve the Singapore Armed Forces to the integrated armed forces we have today, and built up A\*Star's capability as a leading research organisation.

"I would like to express our appreciation to Chuan Poh for his leadership and outstanding contributions to the public service."

Permanent Secretary for Trade and Industry Loh Khum Yean said: "I would like to express MTI's deep appreciation for Chuan Poh's many invaluable contributions. His strong leadership of A\*Star has strengthened Singapore's position as a global Asia node of technology, innovation and enterprise."

Mr Loh also welcomed Ms Chan into the MTI family. He said: "I am confident that the new leadership team will build on Chuan Poh's excellent work and bring A\*Star forward in its next phase of growth."

A\*Star, which has about 5,200 employees, is recognised as one of the world's top innovative government science and technology organisations.

Last year, it announced its biggest shake-up to date, with broad changes made to the way the research institutes under its charge would be run, in efforts to make the organisation more nimble in the use of talent and funds.

However, some staff say issues such as red tape and clarity over funding remain.

A\*Star declined to comment when approached by The Straits Times.

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Cleric Abu Bakar Bashir (with cane) with Professor Yusril Ihza Mahendra (in cream shirt) of the Jokowi-Ma'ruf presidential campaign team at the Gunung Sindur prison outside Jakarta yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YUSRIL IHZA MAHENDRA

# Indonesia to release JI founder from jail next week

# Jokowi cites radical cleric's health, among other considerations, for surprise decision

Linda Yulisman

Indonesia Correspondent In Jakarta

The Indonesian authorities will release convicted radical cleric Abu Bakar Bashir next week, in a surprise move announced by President Joko Widodo yesterday.

Bashir, 80, has been serving his 15-year prison term since 2011 for funding a terrorist training camp in Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh.

He is widely regarded as the spiritual leader of South-east Asia terrorist group Jemaah Islamiah (JI) and the mastermind behind the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 202 people, including foreigners. JI was also behind several other deadly bombings in Jakarta.

The JI network, formed in the early 1990s by Bashir, was detected in 2001. Many Singaporean JI members studied with him at a school he set up in Ulu Tiram, Johor. He also radicalised Malaysians, including bomb expert Azahari Husin, who was killed in 2005 by anti-terror police, and Noordin Mohammed Top, who was killed in 2009.

Bashir has shown many times that he is unrepentant about his radical views. In 2016, while challenging his conviction for funding the Aceh camp, he said in court: "The physical and weapons training in Aceh was aimed at defending Islam and Muslims in Indonesia and overseas, and was an obligation Muslims must fulfil because it is God's order."

In 2013, Bashir told his followers that the government is illegitimate because it is based on democracy, which he described as "syirik", or idolatry.

Thus, the move by President Joko to release him amid the ongoing presidential election campaign surprised many people. Mr Joko, asked by reporters yesterday, said the decision had been under consideration since early last year, and that discussions with the national police chief and other top officials took into account security concerns.

"First of all, (it is) motivated by humanitarian reasons. His health treatment is also included in the considerations," Mr Joko was re-

ported by Kompas TV as saying in West Java.

Professor Yusril Ihza Mahendra, a legal adviser to the Jokowi-Ma'ruf presidential campaign team, said he had lobbied for Bashir's release until the President, popularly known as Jokowi, finally relented.

Prof Yusril noted that the decision complied with prevailing laws, saying the cleric was eligible for a conditional release as he had already served more than two-thirds of his sentence and received remission of his prison sentence three times for good behaviour. Under the law, a convict can obtain parole after serventee the serventee that the serventee

ing two-thirds of his jail time.

"If we apply normal conditions, that will be difficult and, therefore, he could not obtain the conditional release although actually he had already exceeded his serving period," Prof Yusril told The Straits Times over the phone. "That is what I had discussed with Abu Bakar Bashir and Jokowi until the issue was solved."

Prof Yusril, who is also the leader of Crescent Star Party – an Islamic party – said the release of Bashir will be unconditional and carried out in a few days, after which he will live with his son Abdul Rahim in Solo, Central Java.

Mr Joko, who is seeking re-election in the April 17 polls, has been plagued by accusations that he is anti-Islam and a communist, mostly circulating on social media.

To boost his Muslim credentials, he picked conservative cleric Ma'ruf Amin, formerly the chairman of the Indonesia Ulema Council and former supreme leader of Indonesia's biggest Islamic organisation Nahdlatul Ulama, as his running mate.

Anti-terror expert Adhe Bhakti of the Centre for Radicalism and Deradicalisation Studies questioned the President's decision.

"It is interesting because he (Bashir) seems to accept the offer (for release) from the government, which he had opposed. He has rejected clemency a few times," Mr Adhe said, adding: "We also need to question how the government benefits from his release."

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# A lifetime spent nurturing terror

- Founder of Al Mukmin Islamic boarding school in Solo, more commonly called Ngruki, known for producing militants.
- Spiritual leader of
  South-east Asia-based
  terror network
  Jemaah Islamiah
  that radicalised
  Singaporeans and
  Malaysians, apart from
  Indonesians.
- A group of his followers was responsible for the October 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, Indonesia's deadliest militant attack.
- The attack prompted Jakarta to beef up anti-terror cooperation with the United States and Australia.
- Several militants convicted over the Bali bombings have been executed. Others, including Malaysian Noordin Mohammed Top, were killed in police raids.
- JI was also blamed for a deadly 2003 car-bomb blast at the JW Marriott hotel in Jakarta and a suicide car-bomb blast in 2004 outside the Australian Embassy.
- The firebrand preacher later founded Jamaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT), the successor to JI.
- He was sentenced to 15 years in jail in 2011 for inciting others to commit terror acts and helping to fund a paramilitary training camp in Aceh.
- In 2016, he was moved from the maximum-security Nusakambangan Island prison in Central Java to Gunung Sindur prison outside Jakarta.



an NTUC Social Enterprise

Johor Menteri Besar Osman Sapian (in white) visited a Malaysian government vessel anchored in Singapore's territorial waters on Jan 9. An annual bilateral meeting between Singapore and Malaysia, set for the following Monday, was postponed following Datuk Osman's action. PHOTO: OSMAN SAPIAN/FACEBOOK



# KL denies giving nod for Johor MB to visit vessel in S'pore waters



## KL Foreign Ministry contacted his office with message not to proceed with visit

**Shannon Teoh** 

Malaysia Bureau Chief In Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia has denied approving last week's visit by the Johor Menteri Besar to a government vessel in waters that it is claiming from Singapore.

The Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry said yesterday that "upon learning of the planned visit from a Malaysian enforcement agency on the morning of 9 January itself", it "immediately and repeatedly contacted the chief minister's office and conveyed a message not to proceed with the visit".

"The ministry was concerned that such a visit would be counterproductive after the positive and constructive outcome of the bilateral meetings between the Foreign Minister and the Foreign Minister of Singapore just the day before," the statement said.

This confirms The Straits Times report last Saturday that Johor Menteri Besar Osman Sapian had insisted on boarding the Marine Department ship anchored off Tuas despite being instructed not to proceed.

On Thursday, Datuk Osman was reported as saying that he had the "unofficial blessing" of Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah to visit what Malaysia maintains is its territory under Johor Baru port. "They did not stop me at all

from visiting the area," he said. Singapore has consistently treated the area as part of its territorial waters.

Malaysia's Foreign Ministry also said in its statement that, when contacted, Mr Osman was already on board a vessel and heading towards the Johor Baru port.

An annual bilateral meeting between Singapore and Malaysia set for the following Monday was postponed after Mr Osman's action, which Singapore called an intrusion into its waters.

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said last Saturday that Mr Osman's presence on a Malaysian vessel in Singapore's territory on Jan 9 had rendered the 14th Joint Ministerial Committee for Iskandar Malaysia (JMCIM) "untenable". Mr Osman also sits on the panel.

With the bilateral meeting postponed, Malaysia's co-chair of the JMCIM, Economic Affairs Minister Azmin Ali, instead met Singaporean leaders without Mr Osman on Sunday and Monday.

Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan and National Development Minister Lawrence Wong all spoke positively on improving bilateral ties after their meetings with Datuk Seri Azmin, pointing out the mutual benefit of cooperation despite several ongoing disputes between the two neighbours.

Both countries' foreign ministries had agreed on Jan 8 – the day before Mr Osman's controversial visit to the Malaysian vessel – to establish a working group on their overlapping claims on the waters off Tuas and the use of airspace over Pasir Gudang, Johor, near Singapore's Seletar Airport.

"Regardless of these recent developments, the ministry wishes to concentrate its efforts on the working group and looks forward to hosting the first meeting at the end of this month, a testament of its commitment to strengthen bilateral relations with Singapore based on equality and mutual respect," Malaysia's Foreign Ministry said in its statement yesterday.

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# Japanese retailer Nojima offers to buy Courts Asia

#### Electronics chain eyeing strong foothold in S-E Asia makes cash offer of 20.5 cents a share

Japanese electronics retailer Nojima Corp is making a bid for Courts Asia at 20.5 cents per share as it seeks to gain a strong foothold in South-east Asia.

The offer price represents a premium of about 35 per cent above Singapore company Courts' closing price on Wednesday. Courts shares closed at 15.2 cents on Thursday.

Trading in Courts shares was halted before the market opened

yesterday, but its stock price has been on a tear since the trading halt was lifted after the midday break.

Shares closed at 20 cents on Friday. The counter, which averaged a turnover of 255,000 shares over the last 15 trading days, saw comparatively heavy trading, with 1.59 mil-

The offer is conditional upon unit Nojima Asia Pacific having received by the close of the offer sufficient

lion shares changing hands.

valid acceptances that, together with the shares owned by Nojima and any parties acting in concert with it, result in more than 50 per cent of the shares in issue and outstanding.

Nojima has received an undertaking from Courts' majority shareholder Singapore Retail Group (SRG), which has agreed to irrevocably tender all its 382 million shares, translating to a 73.8 per cent stake in the company.

Once SRG accepts it, the offer will turn unconditional.

Courts Asia, the holding company for Courts operations in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, has been listed on Singapore's mainboard since 2012. With its roots as a furniture retailer from Britain, Courts opened its first store in Singapore in 1974, mainly selling furniture. Today, it has around 80 stores across its three markets and has expanded its range to include electrical, IT and furniture products.

Tokyo Stock Exchange-listed Nojima is an electrical appliance retail chain mainly selling consumer digital appliances, and has a global headcount of over 8,000 staff. It has a market capitalisation of \$1.4 billion and earned revenues of \$6.1 billion for the financial year ended last March.

After the offer is completed, Nojima may undertake a "strategic



Courts posted a net loss of \$3.1 million for its fiscal second quarter, sinking into the red from a net profit of \$1.5 million for the same period a year earlier. PHOTO: COURTS

and operational review of Courts, with a view to realising synergies, economies of scale, cost efficiencies and growth potential", it said. It will also consider delisting Courts from the Singapore Exchange if it gets enough acceptances to do so.

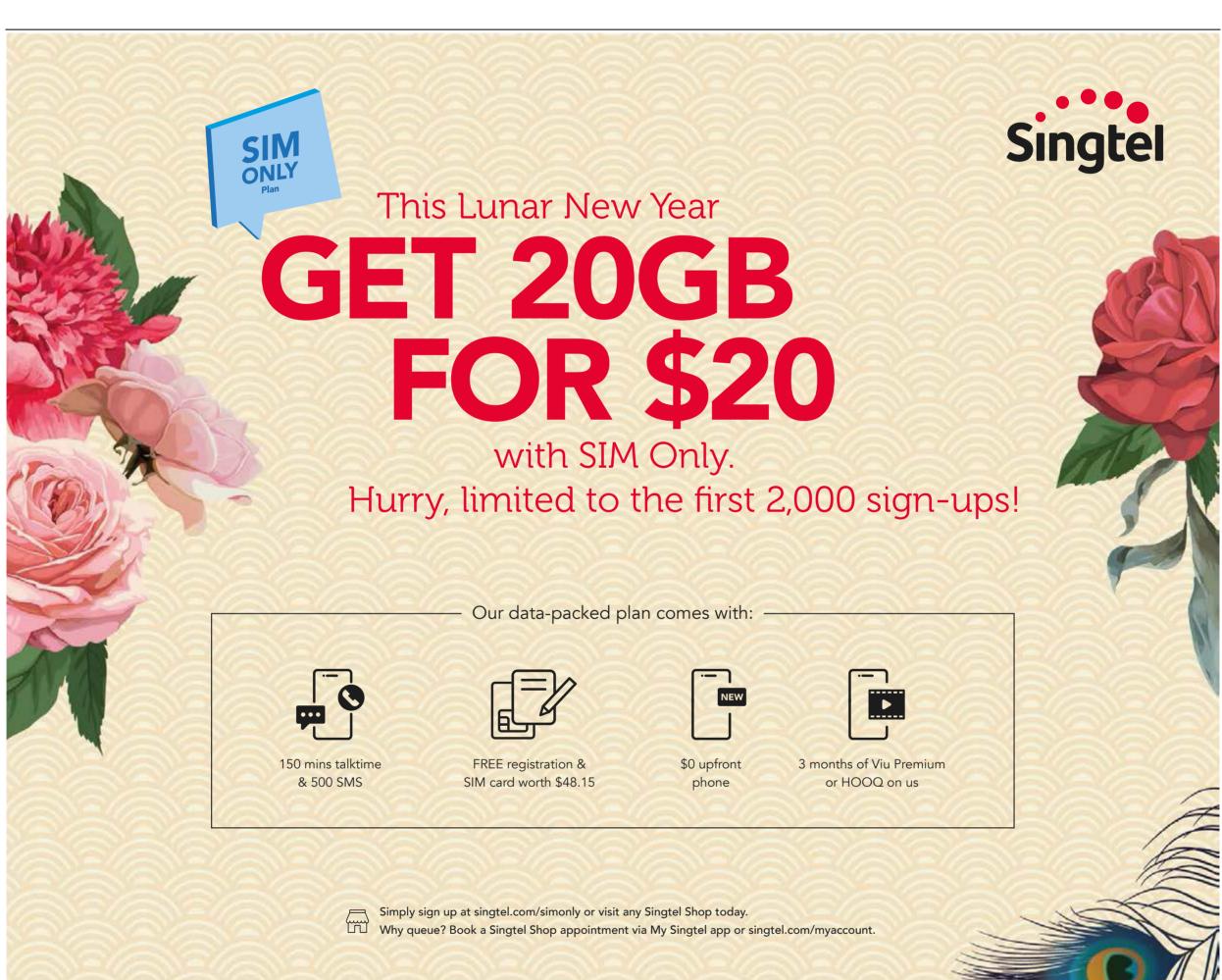
Nojima said synergies can be created between the two retail groups. It also highlighted that shareholders can use the offer as an exit op-

portunity: "The closing price of the shares has not been at or above the

offer price since July 27, 2018."

Courts posted a net loss of \$3.1 million for its fiscal second quarter, from a net profit of \$1.5 million for the same period a year earlier.

Courts announced on Tuesday it will close one of its Indonesian megastores in Tangerang as it was historically not profitable, and to avoid high rental costs over the remaining lease term. It also bought a property in Jakarta for \$9.36 million and said it will restructure its megastore there.



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# Bangkok residents brace themselves for prolonged haze

Tan Hui Yee **Indochina Bureau Chief** In Bangkok

Ms Rossukon Samabutr steps away from her vending cart outside Bangkok's Lumpini Park, trying to blink away the dryness in her eyes.

"I feel really weak," the 38-yearold said. "Even when I smoked, or slept late, I never felt this bad. Where is this smog coming from?"

A noxious haze that has blanketed the Thai capital in recent days is likely to peak this weekend, and may even linger till the end of next month, said the authorities, as unusually still air prevents fine-

particle pollutants from dispersing. Bangkok residents had a brief respite vesterday morning when a breeze brought the level of PM2.5 pollutants so small they can penetrate deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems - under the safety threshold of 50 micrograms per cubic m.

During the past week, however, landmarks faded from the hazy skyline as the PM2.5 levels climbed to as high as 143 micrograms per cubic m in the worst spots.

Such grey skies are more typical of Thailand's northern regions during the dry season, when forest fires are worsened by blazes that farmers start to clear their land.

Normally relaxed Bangkok residents raided pharmacies and convenience stores for masks or fished out the ones they had left lying around their homes.

"I don't normally use a mask except when I am riding my motorcycle," said Mr Papon Ueanukorn, a 60-year-old retiree. He used to be constantly exposed to exhaust fumes on the road before, having worked as a driver for many years. "But I started to get scared."

The national women's football team trained in N95 masks. Food delivery companies received a

spike in orders. High-pressure water cannon, nor-



Pedestrians on a Bangkok street wearing masks after a week of heavy air pollution in the city. A noxious haze that has blanketed the Thai capital in recent days is likely to peak this weekend, and may even linger until

the end of

next month.

PHOTO: EPA-EFE

mally used for firefighting, were directed into the air as the Bangkok authorities sought to ground the dust swirling around.

"We will spray roads every day until the situation gets better,' Bangkok Deputy Governor Taweesak Lertprapan told The Straits Times, while acknowledging that the daily drenching would have little effect on the fine pollutants.

For a longer-term solution, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has been working with the Department of Land Transport to find a way to reduce the number of pollution-emitting diesel vehicles on the road, he said.

Bangkok's notorious traffic jams, which contribute to the fumes, have been worsened of late by construction work on new electric train lines across the city. As a stopgap measure, work on the train lines has been halted.

"We have talked to the train contractors to not take up a bigger road space than necessary to minimise traffic jams," said Mr Taweesak. Traffic police have started clamping down on smoke-belching vehicles.

Meanwhile, Thailand's Department of Royal Rainmaking and Agricultural Aviation, which is normally deployed to help farmers, told The Straits Times that it would continue trying to seed clouds until the smog in Bangkok fades.

The haze has been an important wake-up call, said government spokesman Puttipong Punnakan.

"Before this, the government department tried to persuade people to reduce emissions, to change from diesel to biodiesel, to ask people not to burn their garbage," he told The Straits Times. "Now, people have seen for themselves the smog and are starting to understand. I think they will start work-

ing together to avoid this problem." Meanwhile, Ms Rossukon is taking two paracetamol tablets a day to cope with her haze-related ailments. She has not gone to see the doctor.

"I want to deal with this myself," she said. "I want to somehow develop an immunity to this."

tanhy@sph.com.sg



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# Trump cancels House Speaker's trip

### Officials' travel plans to Davos also scrapped as government shutdown situation worsens

WASHINGTON • US President Donald Trump forced the cancellation of a trip to Afghanistan by his Democratic opponent Nancy Pelosi, and scrapped administration officials' travel to the Davos forum as a government shutdown plunged Washington deeper into deadlock.

The mess in the US capital already verged on the surreal as Congress feuds with the White House over how to end an impasse now in its fourth week, with thousands of federal workers left unpaid.

But now it is also getting increasingly personal between the two main antagonists.

In a letter, Mr Trump told House Speaker Pelosi: "I am sorry to inform you that your trip to Brussels, Egypt and Afghanistan has been postponed. We will reschedule this seven-day excursion when the Shutdown is over.

"I am sure you would agree that postponing this public relations event is appropriate," he wrote.

And in a move that appeared aimed at heading off Democratic criticism about non-essential administration travel during the shutdown, the White House announced the cancellation of a trip to the World Economic Forum by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and others "out of consideration for the 800,000 great American workers not receiving pay".

Mrs Pelosi and her delegation had planned a non-publicised trip

to Afghanistan – an active war zone – and were due to travel on board a US Air Force plane.

In Brussels, they had planned to meet top Nato officials to affirm the United States' commitment to the alliance, a counter to Mr Trump's at-times wavering support for the defence pact.

Mrs Pelosi's office said Egypt was not on the itinerary.

According to a congressional aide, several lawmakers were already loaded onto buses preparing to leave the US Capitol on Thursday when Mr Trump pulled the plug.

Mr Trump said Mrs Pelosi still had the option of flying commercial.

The cancellation followed Mrs Pelosi's suggestion that Mr Trump postpone his Jan 29 State of the Union address to Congress, or do it from the White House instead.

Although she cited the shutdown's effect on security, she appeared to want to deny the President one of his chief annual moments in the limelight.

The White House denied that the travel blockage was payback, but few bought the argument.

House Democrats who had been slated for the trip were left fuming, including freshman congresswoman Elaine Luria, a 20-year Navy veteran who said the purpose was to express appreciation to Americans in uniform and gain critical intelligence on the ground.

"Oversight is the responsibility of



A US Air Force bus meant to transport House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others to a flight to Belgium and Afghanistan parked outside the Capitol on Thursday after President Donald Trump cancelled the flight as his dispute with congressional Democrats over the government shutdown continues in Washington. PHOTO: REUTERS

Congress, and it is inappropriate for the President to interfere with our constitutional duties," Ms Luria said in a statement.

Republican Senator Lindsey Gra-

ham, who for weeks has served as a referee of sorts between Mr Trump and Mrs Pelosi, accused the latter of "playing politics with the State of the Union".

But he also hit out at Mr Trump, saying "denying Speaker Pelosi military travel to visit our troops in Afghanistan, our allies in Egypt and Nato is also inappropriate". "One sophomoric response does not deserve another," Mr Graham said.

The government shutdown is due to Mr Trump's refusal to sign off on funding for a host of departments, in retaliation for the Democraticled House's refusal to approve his US-Mexico border wall project.

The Democrats and the White House blame each other for the impasse, with neither side showing signs of backing down. Trump critics pointed out that

the President himself visited troops in Iraq during what he referred to as the "Trump Shutdown". Lawmakers' visits to war zones

are typically kept secret for security reasons, and House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff said Mr Trump's decision to disclose Mrs Pelosi's travel plans was "completely and utterly irresponsible in every way".

Others backed the President.

"I can see why he'd do it," Senate Armed Services Committee chairman James Inhofe said of Mr Trump's cancelling of Mrs Pelosi's trip. "She's the top leader of the House, and she's the top negotiator to open up the government. You can't open up the government from Afghanistan, so I think he has every right to do it." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, NYTIMES, WASHINGTON POST





NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT ...

I am sorry to inform you that your trip to Brussels, Egypt and Afghanistan has been postponed. We will reschedule this seven-day excursion when the Shutdown is over. I am sure you would agree that postponing this public relations event is appropriate.

U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, in a letter to Democratic opponent and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (left).



WORK MUST GO ON

We're not going to allow the President of the United States to tell the Congress it can't fulfil its oversight responsibilities... That work must go on and I think it's vitally important now.

HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADAM SCHIFF, citing Mr Trump's visiting troops in Iraq during the shutdown

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# State Dept recalling its staff with pay

WASHINGTON • The US State Department told employees they are going back to work with pay despite the partial government shutdown, as the Donald Trump administration continues to craft exemptions aimed at minimising the effects of the funding impasse with Congress.

"The department expects to be able to resume most personnel operations and fund most salaries," the department said on Thursday in the letter to its worldwide staff. For most employees, that means going back to work on Tuesday.

The department did not say where it was finding money to pay its employees. It cautioned that "bureaus and posts are expected to adhere to strict budget constraints with regard to new spending for contracts, travel and other needs".

Senator Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, said the shutdown "continues to create a real risk for US foreign policy".

"While I believe it is critically important that our diplomacy and development professionals get paid for their service to our nation, trying to hold a government together with duct tape" is "no way to gov-

ern", he said. While visa and passport services overseas that are funded by fees have remained open, many embassy staff members around the world have been on furlough - not working and not paid - along with hundreds of thousands of government workers affected by the shut-

In some cases, unpaid workers have been taking turns coming to offices one or two days a week to keep operations going.

down in the US.

About 26 per cent of American employees of the State Department overseas and about 42 per cent stationed in the US had been furloughed, according to the depart-An increasing number of federal

agencies have been calling back workers to limit the impact of the shutdown and protect favoured industries and policy initiatives. The administration has ordered

thousands of furloughed federal employees back to work without pay to inspect planes and monitor food safety, among other things.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced on Tuesday that it is bringing back some safety specialists to approve new planes for service, review plane maintenance and conduct airport inspections.

That came a day after the Food and Drug Administration said it was recalling workers to resume inspections of high-risk fare such as soft cheeses and seafood. BLOOMBERG

# Trump team weighs tariff cut to clinch China trade deal

### But Treasury chief's proposal unlikely to pass muster with trade hawks in administration

WASHINGTON • The Trump administration is considering eliminating tariffs on billions of dollars of Chinese imports to spur progress towards a trade deal, less than two weeks before a high-level delegation from Beijing is scheduled to arrive in Washington for talks.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has proposed a tariff reduction as an incentive for China to sweeten its offer to the United States, according to two people fa-

miliar with the discussions.

However, administration hardliners, including US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, are opposed to eliminating the tariffs before China has taken irreversible steps

to meet American demands.

President Donald Trump last year imposed tariffs on Chinese industrial and consumer goods as leverage in talks aimed at shrinking the US trade deficit and forcing China to abandon discriminatory trading practices.

If negotiations do not succeed by March 1, tariffs on US\$200 billion (S\$271 billion) worth of Chinese products are scheduled to rise to 25 per cent from 10 per cent. Officials are debating whether to instead eliminate the levies on some or all of the affected Chinese goods.

After years of tough talk regarding China, Mr Trump in recent months has warmed to the idea of

striking a deal with Beijing.

The idea of an early tariff cut has not yet reached his desk, with the administration scrambling to manage a government shutdown that entered its 28th day yesterday.

But weakness on Wall Street – where the Dow Jones Industrial Average has lost more than 9 per cent since its Oct 3 peak – and mounting unease among Mr Trump's political supporters hurt by the tariff war are triggering the President's dealmaking instincts, the people familiar with the discussions said.

"He's driving towards a deal," said one business executive who asked not to be named. "He wants a deal and may be willing to settle for not very much to get it."

Mr Trump agreed with Chinese
President Xi Jinping over dinner in
Buenos Aires, Argentina, last Dec 1
to delay a scheduled tariff increase



US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is preoccupied by the impact of a prolonged trade conflict with China on financial markets and the US economy, and is said to have proposed a tariff reduction. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

and launch renewed talks aimed at a comprehensive trade deal.

Washington has insisted for months that it would not remove tariffs unless China agreed to significantly higher purchases from US businesses and changes in its statedominated economic system.

The administration has long been divided over the best approach to China, with Mr Mnuchin preoccupied by the impact on financial mar-

kets and the economy of a prolonged trade conflict and Mr Lighthizer and White House adviser Peter Navarro determined to force what they see as long-overdue changes in ties with Beijing.

"Neither Secretary Mnuchin nor Ambassador Lighthizer has made any recommendations to anyone with respect to tariffs or other parts of the negotiation with China," said a spokesman for the Treasury Department. "This an ongoing process with the Chinese that is nowhere near completion."

Mr Trump has oscillated between his team's hawks and doves and could do so again, according to a for-

mer Treasury Department official.
Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He is scheduled to lead the Chinese side in the next round of talks, starting on Jan 30. Mr Lighthizer will head the US delegation. WASHINGTON POST

# Don't let differences define Sino-US ties: Wang Yi

BEIJING • China and the United States should not allow differences between them to define their current ties lest misjudgments dictate future relations, said State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

He made the remarks in an interview with China's Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily which was published on Thursday.

Mr Wang's comments focused on Sino-US relations, as this year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Beijing and Washington.
Only by upholding the principles of development, openness and inclusiveness can the two countries forge a brighter future for the ties, Mr Wang said.

Cooperation is the best option for the two sides – one of the valuable experiences drawn from the development of Sino-US ties over the past 40 years, Mr Wang noted.

Although great changes have taken place in the two countries, as well as on the international stage,

China and the US should still remain true to their original aspirations and stay focused on developing their ties based on coordination, cooperation and stability, he added.

Differences and friction between various nations do not necessarily mean they have to confront one another, he noted.

Both sides should deal with disputes and sensitive issues between them in a constructive manner, seeking consensus while shelving

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differences, and see to it that their ties move forward on the right track, he said.

track, he said.

Noting that the Taiwan question has always been the most sensitive

issue in Sino-US relations, Mr Wang said it is critically important to handle the issue properly based on the "one China" principle.

Beijing demands that diplomatic allies recognise the principle that there is only one China in the world, that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole government of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory.

Mr Wang urged the US to uphold the "one China" principle, abide by the three joint communiques governing their relations and take real action to oppose Taiwan independence forces and their secessionist activities.

On the ongoing trade friction, Mr Wang said trade cooperation remains the engine of China-US relations as it is mutually beneficial and offers win-win outcomes.

Saying that strategic communication between the Chinese and US leaders plays a crucial role in guiding bilateral relations, Mr Wang stressed the need to implement the consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump to promote ties. The US and China are halfway through their 90-day truce set to expire on March 1.

CHINA DAILY/ASIA NEWS NETWORK























**1MDB** scandal

# Goldman apology not enough, says KL



**COMPENSATION NEEDED** 

An apology is just not sufficient. Not enough. There must be the necessary reparations and compensation.

FINANCE MINISTER LIM GUAN ENG

### Malaysia may drop charges over bank's role in scandal if it pays \$10.2b: Finance Minister

KUALA LUMPUR • An apology from Goldman Sachs Group does not cut it for Malaysia, which said it may consider a discussion to absolve the bank of blame for its role in the 1MDB scandal for US\$7.5 billion

(S\$10.2 billion).

The country filed criminal charges against the lender last month, the first for Goldman, and

may discuss dropping those allegations if the bank pays the sum, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng told reporters yesterday.

Units of the bank were accused of making false statements in documents submitted to a local regulator in arranging US\$6.5 billion bond of-

fers for troubled state fund 1MDB. "Goldman Sachs should understand the agony and the trauma suffered by the Malaysian people as a result of the 1MDB scandal," Mr Lim said in the administrative capital of Putrajaya.

"An apology is just not sufficient. Not enough. There must be the necessary reparations and compensa-

tion," he added. Goldman's chief executive David

Solomon this week apologised to the Malaysian people for the role that senior banker Tim Leissner played in the 1MDB scandal. The country was "defrauded by many individuals", with Leissner being "one of those people", Mr Solomon said during a conference call with analysts, after the investment bank re-

ported its earnings on Wednesday.

Leissner has pleaded guilty to charges including conspiring to launder money, while another former Goldman banker Roger Ng remains in custody in Malaysia as he faces extradition to the United

States to face related allegations. Mr Solomon reiterated that the firm conducted considerable due diligence on the deals and was lied

to by Leissner. Appearing on his first earnings call since becoming CEO in October, Mr Solomon said the firm is cooperating with the US Justice Department and the investigation is still open.

Goldman has said it will vigorously defend itself against the charges by Malaysia.

The allegations against Goldman were filed by Attorney-General Tommy Thomas as Malaysia's top prosecutor, while the Finance Minister is not formally authorised to make decisions on criminal charges.

"At least he accepted that they have to bear and shoulder some responsibility," Mr Lim said, referring to Mr Solomon.

"If not for the change of government, do you think Goldman Sachs would have apologised? We are talking about the largest investment bank in the world... It's not easy to get an apology from them," Mr Lim said.

"An apology with US\$7.5 billion, that is what matters." BLOOMBERG, REUTERS

# Mitsubishi accuses Ghosn of taking secret \$12m payment

TOKYO • Mitsubishi Motors has joined Nissan in accusing Carlos Ghosn of financial wrongdoing, saying that he secretly received compensation of €7.8 million (S\$12 million) from a joint venture of the two automakers.

Mr Osamu Masuko, Mitsubishi's chief executive, told reporters in Tokyo yesterday that the automaker was considering suing Ghosn, the former chairman of both Nissan and Mitsubishi.

The latest allegations come as Renault, the third automaker in the global car alliance that Ghosn ran, is preparing to cut ties with its star executive.

Ghosn has been detained in Tokyo since Nov 19 on suspicion of understating his salary for eight years, and of temporarily transferring personal investment losses to Nissan's books during the 2008 financial crisis. He has denied all

Mitsubishi's findings involve a joint venture between Nissan and Mitsubishi established in 2017 in the Netherlands.

The company said Ghosn, who is listed as a director of the joint venture, drew up an employment contract that rewarded him €7.8 million in compensation.

The joint venture had been set up to distribute part of the savings generated by Nissan's 2017 acquisition of Mitsubishi to the departments at the automakers that generated the savings - a kind of incentive scheme to bring the companies closer together. The joint venture's other direc-

tors - Mr Masuko and Nissan's chief executive Hiroto Saikawa were unpaid and kept in the dark about Ghosn's compensation, according to Mitsubishi. The company learnt about the

payment only after Nissan shared the findings of its internal investigation into Ghosn, it said.

It is unclear whether Ghosn's compensation broke any laws.

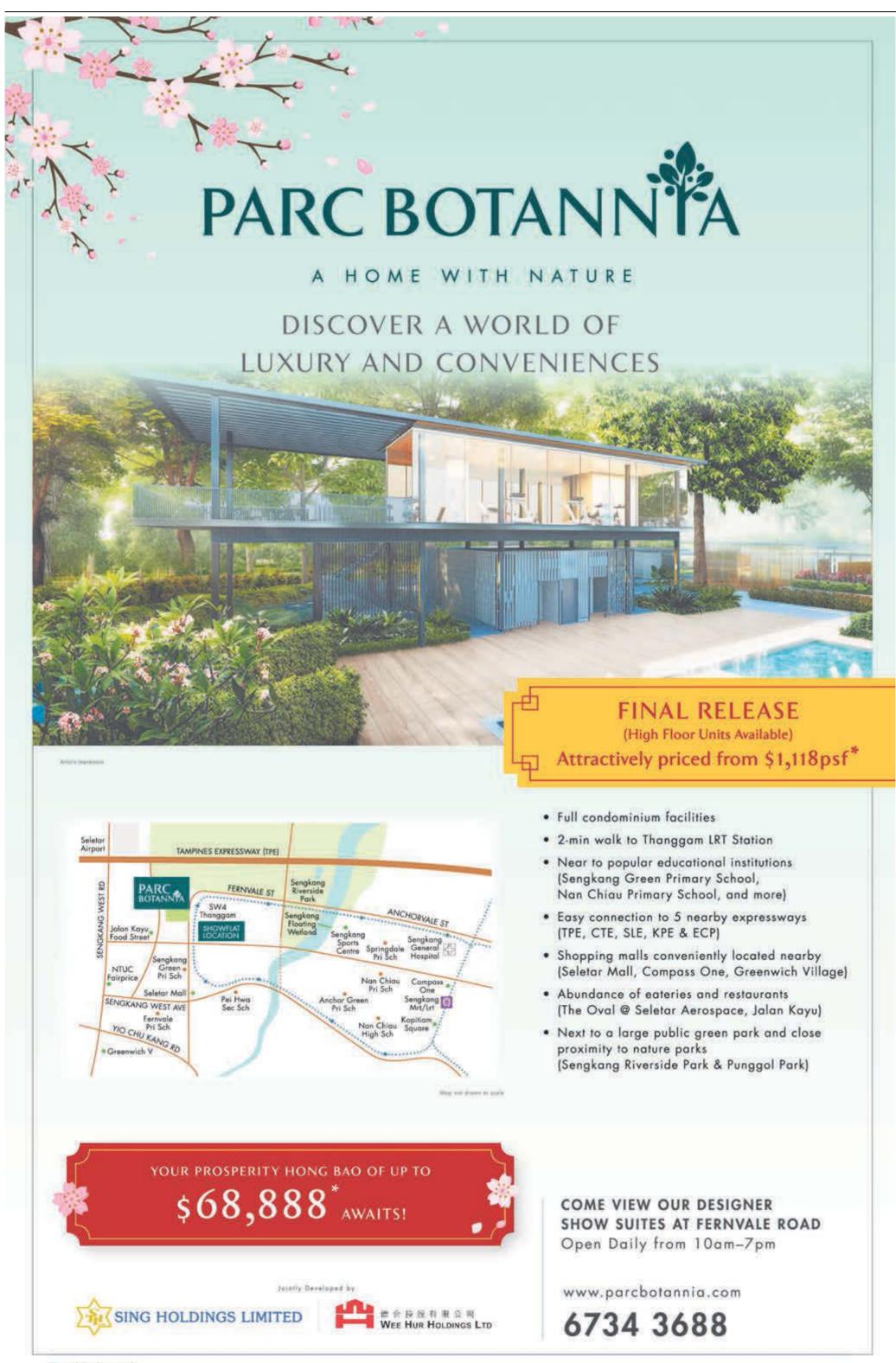
The joint venture was an unincorporated subsidiary of Mitsubishi and Nissan registered in the Netherlands, meaning it is likely to be beyond the purview of Japanese financial regulators.

Nissan and Mitsubishi have removed Ghosn from his posts as chairman at the two companies, though he remains on their boards.

Nissan owns a controlling stake in Mitsubishi Motors, while Renault is Nissan's biggest share-

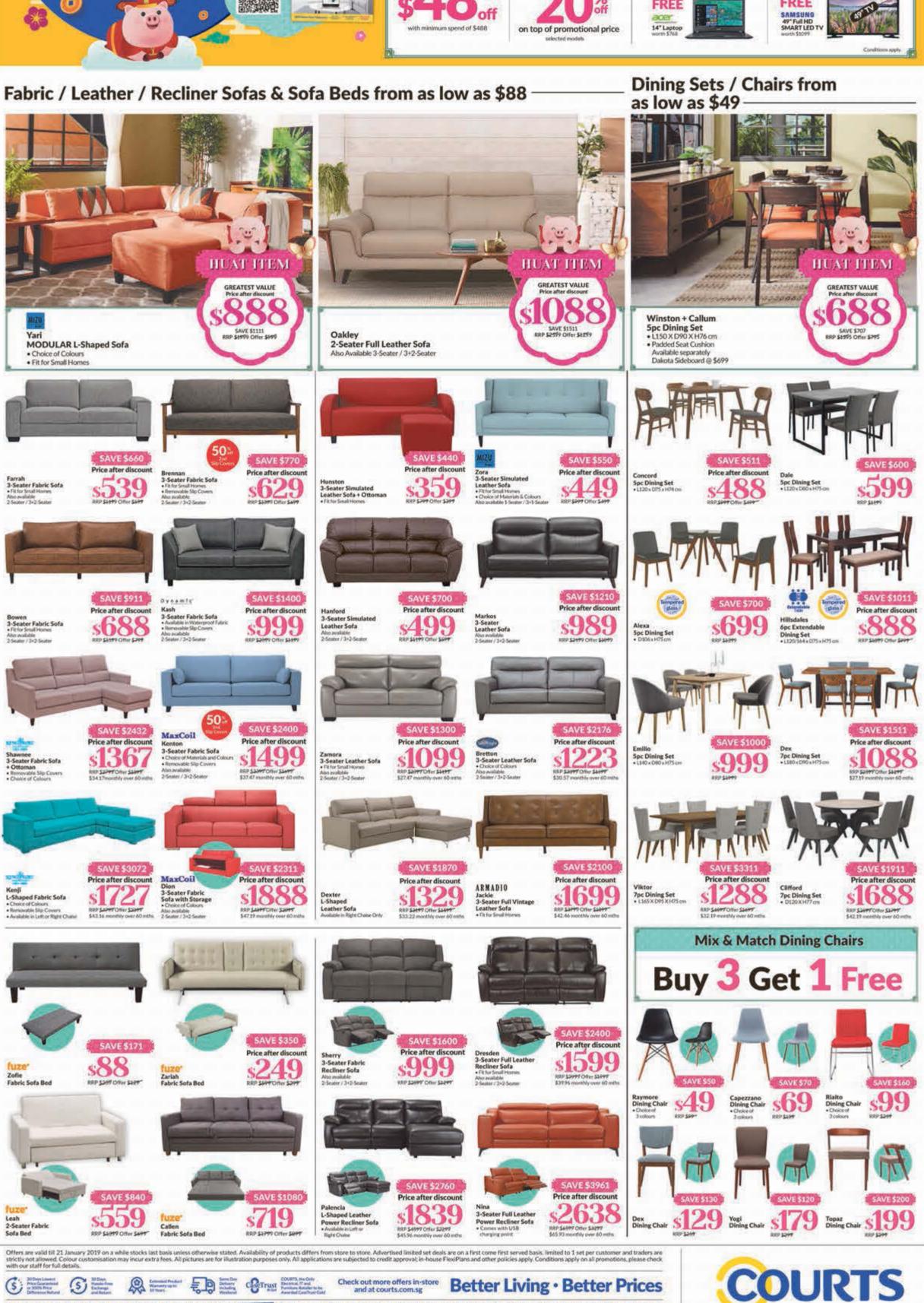
Renault had stood by Ghosn, keeping him as chairman and chief executive even as he sat in a Tokyo

But after a Tokyo court rejected his bail request on Tuesday, the French government called for new leadership at the automaker. **NYTIMES** 



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# Manila urged to take over Subic Bay shipyard

## Officials voice fears that Chinese takeover may project Beijing's power deeper into the region

MANILA • The Philippine government should take control of the country's largest shipyard, the Defence Secretary said, after officials raised concerns that Chinese companies seeking to take over it would act as agents of Beijing, projecting China's power deeper into the region.

Among the foreign companies expressing interest in the sprawl-

ing shipyard on Subic Bay are two Chinese firms, one of which is state-owned, according to Philippine officials.

They have voiced fears that a Chinese takeover of the yard would give a strategic foothold to China, which is expanding its economic and military presence in the region and has seized islands in the South China Sea that are claimed by the Philippines, among others.

Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he had raised the issue of the shipyard in a meeting on Wednesday with President Rodrigo Duterte, who has tried to improve relations with Beijing, worrying US

policymakers who have long seen the Philippines as a strategic check

Also in the meeting were Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr and the country's economic managers.

"The Philippine navy suggested that, why not the Philippines take over, so that we'll have a naval base there?" he told foreign correspondents on Thursday, recounting his conversation with the President. 'Then we'll have shipbuilding capa-

The government owns the site and leases it out, and the Defence Secretary said United States, Australian, Japanese and South Korean

firms had also expressed interest. But he said he agreed with a pro-

posal by a Philippine senator that the country "should take it now wholly". Mr Duterte's position on the matter is not clear.

Subic Bay, about 80km northwest of Manila on the island of Luzon, was the site of a major US naval base during the Cold War, and it opens onto the South China Sea.

Officials have not identified the companies that have shown interest, but the shipyard is becoming available as concerns mount in many countries that Chinese companies, even ones that are not government-controlled, often engage in industrial espionage and act as tools of the Chinese government's influence and spying efforts.

Justice Antonio Carpio of the Philippine Supreme Court, an outspoken critic of Mr Duterte's China-friendly stance, is among the officials who have publicly warned against a Chinese presence in Subic Bay.

"Why would we allow the Chinese to get a foothold in Subic when they are trying to seize the West Philippine Sea just across?" he said. "It doesn't make sense."

A Philippine unit of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Group, a South Korean company, took over the site in 2006 and built the shipyard, which grew to employ more than 20,000 people and has built large cargo ships.

But demand for new ships has slowed, thousands of workers have been laid off and the Philippine arm of Hanjin, after defaulting on some US\$400 million (S\$542.5 million) in loans, filed for bankruptcy this month.

In recent years, China has occupied and built military bases on formerly uninhabited islands and reefs in the South China Sea, far from the Chinese mainland and much closer to the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

It also claims much of the sea, and its potentially lucrative oil and gas deposits, as its territorial waters.

Most of the world regards the sea international waters and an international tribunal made a sweeping ruling in 2016 against China's conduct in the region. NYTIMES

# Activists decry Sri Lankan leader's praise for Duterte's drug war

MANILA • Human rights groups expressed alarm at Sri Lanka's leader yesterday for praising Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and his bloody war on drugs as an "example to the whole world".

Despite international condemnation of a crackdown that has killed thousands of Filipinos, visiting Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena told Mr Duterte during a banquet that he wanted to follow his footsteps to control the hazard.

Mr Carlos Conde, a Philippine researcher for the New York-based Human Rights Watch, said Mr Duterte's campaign was "a human rights calamity that no country in the world should even try to emulate".

"No 'drug war' that treated the drug problem purely from a crime perspective has ever succeeded," he said. "What they have wrought are untold suffering and the further destruction of the rule of law and the diminution of human rights."

The Philippine government has consistently refuted that and said the crackdown, which started in July 2016, was being administered lawfully. On Friday, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said any allegations of state-sponsored killings were "pure hogwash".

Police say they have since killed at least 5,000 suspected drug dealers, although activists say the number could be far higher and they dispute official accounts that the killings were all in self-defence.

More than 200 people in Bangladesh have been killed by police in a similar campaign. International drug smugglers have increasingly turned to Sri Lanka as a transit hub in Asia, the authorities said.



Predominantly Buddhist Sri Lanka voted in favour of a UN resolution for a moratorium on the death penalty in 2015, but Mr Sirisena

said last year he wanted convicted traffickers caught arranging drug

deals from jail to be executed. Philippine human rights group

iDefend said that if Mr Sirisena was serious about following Mr Duterte's lead, he should be ready to face scrutiny by the International Criminal

Court in the Hague, which has started a preliminary examination into alleged crimes against humanity by Mr Duterte. REUTERS

Sri Lankan President Maithripala

Sirisena waving as Philippine President

Rodrigo Duterte looks on after reviewing a guard of honour during a

ceremony at the

Palace in Manila

on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AGENCE

FRANCE-PRESSE

Malacanang

welcome



# China warns of blowback if Canada bars Huawei's 5G bid

Beijing's envoy urges Canadian government to make 'wise decision' on the issue

OTTAWA • China's envoy to equipment will be excluded. Canada has warned Ottawa there "If the Canadian government would be repercussions if it does ban Huawei from participat- sentenced him to death. banned technology firm Huawei ing in the 5G network, then as for Technologies from supplying what kind of repercussion there accused Beijing of arbitrarily using tion," she told reporters on the sideequipment to Canadian 5G net- will be, I'm not sure, but I believe the death penalty and called world works, the latest blast in a deepenthere will be repercussions," Mr Lu leaders to solicit their support.

at a news conference, did not give this issue". details. Canada is currently studying the security implications of 5G Canada turned frosty last month should avoid "microphone diplo-

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said through an interpreter, urging

has not announced that Huawei rested Meng Wanzhou, chief finan-

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cial officer of Huawei, on a US extra-China subsequently detained two Canadian citizens and this any actions," he said.

man who previously had been Canada had no intention of changfound guilty of drug smuggling and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Mr Lu said when Canadian For-

month a court retried a Canadian

Ambassador Lu Shaye, speaking Ottawa to make a wise decision on eign Minister Chrystia Freeland the review into 5G technology. A goes to the World Economic Canadian source directly familiar networks but, unlike some allies, after the Canadian authorities armacy" and not try to rally support. future.

"If Canada has a sincerity of Huawei has a relatively small REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

brooke, Quebec.

Canadian operation, employing just shy of 1,000 people. But the company said early this year that it had become the 25th largest research and development funder in Canada, thanks to partnerships

THE STRAITS TIMES | SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

Separately in Britain, Oxford iversity said on Thursday it has decided to forgo further funding from the tech giant as scrutiny grows in Europe over the telecom firm's relationship with the Beijing

resolving these issues, then Canada But a Huawei spokesman said the will not do such things. We hope company had not been informed Canada thinks twice before making and would "await the university's full explanation"

In response, Ms Freeland said Huawei has been under fire in recent months with the arrests of Meng in Canada and an employee "We will continue to speak every in Poland, along with a worldwide day with our allies about this situacampaign by Washington to black-

China Daily yesterday reported Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei as She declined to give details about telling a roundtable for domestic media that the political problems it Relations between China and Forum in Davos next week, she with the case said the study would long-term business and the



# Comfy house arrest masks darker reality

VANCOUVER • Meng Wanzhou steps out of her US\$4.2 million (S\$5.7 million) mansion, with a Global Positioning System (GPS) monitor strapped to her ankle, and slips into a chauffeured black sport

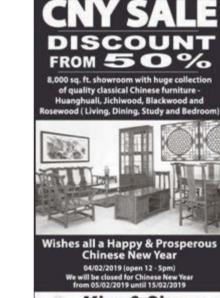
utility vehicle. Then she is off, largely free to roam the shops and restaurants within 260 sq km of Vancouver until her 11pm curfew.

So goes another day of house arrest for Meng, chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies and daughter of the billionaire founder of China's biggest telecommunications manufacturer. It is, by all appearances, a comfortable life for someone at the centre

of a complex power game. Meng's arrest at the behest of the United States – which wants her extradited on grounds that she tricked banks into potentially violating Iran sanctions - has sparked an unprecedented diplo-

Nine days after her Dec 1 arrest during a stopover in Vancouver, China detained two Canadians on national security grounds. And this week, a China court imposed a death sentence, following a oneday trial, on a Canadian found guilty of drug smuggling.

How Meng's case will be resolved remains unclear, though she has become an object of fascination in a city where her family owns two homes and where she spent downtime when she was not running Huawei's finances.



#### Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou leaving her home while out on bail in Vancouver last week.

Tourists stop by to take selfies outside her home, which is near a 810ha park overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where she is ensconced with her husband and daughter. Meng's bail terms include the GPS monitor, an 11pm to 6am cur-

few, and 24-hour surveillance by a

private security firm, Lions Gate Risk Management Group. The firm's job is to ensure that she does not violate the conditions of her release. She pays the hefty bill for that monitoring, which includes two guards at a

time and a driver.

"If I were on The Price Is Right, I'd say that's about US\$7,000 a day", or more than US\$2.5 million a year, said former police detective Nicholas Casale, referencing the game show.

Meng's long leash following her C\$10 million (S\$10.2 million) bail is unusual, he said - normally, the defendant's movements and communications would be restricted. "You can't just go to dinner or go shopping," he added. Meng is faring better than the

two Canadians detained in China, who have had scant consular ac-Still, the outings and postcard views mask a darker reality for

Meng: This extradition process could drag on for months, and possibly years, if history is any guide. And the odds are high that she will be extradited in the end. "The tilt of the Crown in these cases is extradite, extradite, extradite," said Professor Robert Cur-

rie at Dalhousie University in Hali-

fax, Nova Scotia, who specialises

in international law. The US must turn over its formal extradition request by the end of this month. It has not made the request yet, a Justice Department spokesman said in an e-mail on Thursday.

Canada's Justice Minister David Lametti can reject the request or order extradition hearings to begin. It is not clear if that will happen before Meng's next court date next month. BLOOMBERG



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# Trudeau calls PM Lee to discuss Canada-China row

Canadian PM and S'pore leader also talk about Pacific Rim trade deal, bilateral cooperation

#### **Charissa Yong**

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong morning was briefed by his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau on the ongoing dispute between Canada and and amicably, without further esca-China during a phone call from Mr

Trudeau on Thursday. "Prime Minister Lee noted the imwith cases involving foreign nation- ers of Finland, Argentina, New Zea-

(PMO) in Singapore said in a state- Meng Wanzhou was arrested on

"He expressed the hope that the matter would be resolved calmly

phone calls to various leaders portance of all countries following across the world to discuss the baseless and summoned the Cana- Trudeau's office said both leaders ing in the commercial relationdue process of the law, and being Canada-China dispute. In the past seen to be doing so, when dealing 10 days, he has spoken with the lead-protest over the incident.

locked in a diplomatic row since arrest, in what was viewed as a retalals," the Prime Minister's Office Huawei chief financial officer iatory move.

> is out on bail, but her arrest was motivated. Beijing, which called the charges

The diplomatic rift deepened tion of the death penalty to a third charyong@sph.com.sg

land, the European Council, and US when China detained two Canadi-President Donald Trump, accord- ans – former diplomat Michael

ment released early yesterday Dec 1 at Vancouver International Canadian national Robert Schellen- Canada, following Mr Trudeau's Airport for extradition to the berg was sentenced to death on United States at the request of Monday in a retrial of his drug smuggling case, a move which the She was charged with fraud and US and Canada called politically gapore's PMO.

> dian and American ambassadors in "discussed the detention of two ship," added Mr Trudeau's office. Canadians in China, the applica-

tance of safeguarding international norms, including diplomatic immunity, judicial independence and respect for the rule of law".

The two leaders also discussed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the 11-nation Pacific Rim trade deal which both countries are part of and which entered into force on Dec 30.

Canada and Singapore were among the first to ratify the agreement, deepening trade and investment ties, and bringing economic ing to his office's official website. Kovrig and consultant Michael Spabenefits and good jobs to both Canada and China have been vor – just over a week after Meng's countries, said the Canadian state-

The leaders also talked about co-Tensions further escalated when operation between Singapore and Asean Summit and related meet-

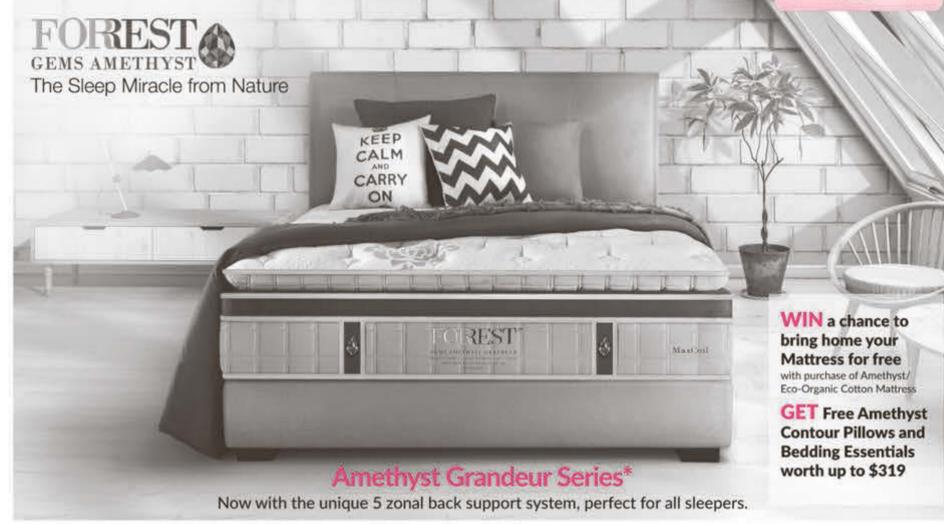
Both leaders welcomed the mo-Mr Trudeau has been making met with a strong response from In a separate statement on Thurs-mentum in bilateral cooperation day's call with Mr Lee, Mr between the two countries, includ-

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# Indonesia's Ahok now wants to be called BTP

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, also known as Ahok, seen here arriving in court in April 2017. He was sentenced to blasphemy. In the letter posted on social media, he said his time in prison had allowed him "to learn to take full control of myself for the rest of my life". PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ex-Jakarta governor hints in letter he's a changed man, ahead of release from jail JAKARTA • Former Jakarta governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama has hinted at the entirely different person he has grown into during his time in prison in a handwritten letter posted on social media.

He has asked his supporters to stop calling him Ahok and to in-

stead refer to him as BTP, the initials of his full name.

He also said that he apologised to those who may have been hurt by his remarks while in office.

The 52-year-old is scheduled to be released next Thursday, after completing his two-year sentence for blasphemy.

"Ahok" is the Hakka Chinese name his father gave him, and is widely used to refer to him.

In the letter dated Thursday, Basuki said his time in prison had allowed him "to learn to take full control of myself for the rest of my life", something he would have been denied had he retained the Jakarta governorship in the April 2017 election against challenger Anies Baswedan.

Basuki, a Christian, said he was grateful to God for allowing him to lose the gubernatorial election and to serve his prison term at Mako Brimob – the national police's Mobile Brigade Corps headquarters – in Depok, West Java.

He wrote that if he could turn back time and was asked to determine his own fate, he would choose to serve his prison sentence over "ruling City Hall for five (more) years", which would have only made him "more arrogant, ruder" to hurt the feelings of many others.

He was governor of the Indonesian capital from November 2014, but lost in the April 2017 gubernatorial election.

Known for his blunt remarks while in office, Basuki said he penned the letter to express his gratitude and to apologise for the turn of events he has faced over the last three years.

His legal team uploaded pictures of his two-page, handwritten letter to his official Instagram account on Thursday. The caption for the letter reads: "The following is BTP's latest letter to address his supporters' well-intentioned plans to welcome him at Mako Brimob upon his release and other messages."

Basuki asked his supporters not to wait at Mako Brimob for his release, so as not to bother people during a working day.

He also encouraged them to vote in the April 17 presidential election. He apologised to the Jakarta civil service corps and even his haters for "all (my) words and actions, whether incidentally or not, that have hurt their feelings".

He is scheduled to be released next Thursday, three months and 15 days shy of his two-year sentence – which he began serving on May 9, 2017 – due to remission of the sentence.

The former governor was sentenced for blasphemy following a speech he made in the Thousand Islands regency in September 2016 that referred to a verse from the Quran. He had said that the verse had been used to deceive people into voting against him.

His political enemies pounced on those remarks as blasphemy.

The court case played a major role in his defeat in the 2017 Jakarta gubernatorial election.

THE JAKARTA POST/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

# Malaysia mulling over night curfew for under-18s

PUTRAJAYA • Malaysians under 18 may not be able to hit the streets at night past a certain time, under a curfew being considered by the government.

The authorities are mulling the setting of a time limit for young Malaysians who can be out of the house without adult supervision, to shield them from negative activities, particularly when it comes to drugs.

The curfew was among matters raised and agreed upon at the Cabinet Committee on Eradicating Drugs meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah Wan Ismail on Thursday.

She noted that records show glue sniffing is a serious problem among the young.

Malaysia would not be the first country to introduce a curfew on teenagers and children. Iceland has something similar.

"We are looking at this policy practised by Iceland. This is a model that we can emulate," Datuk Seri Wan Azizah said. "It may not be easy to implement but we feel this is necessary and can definitely help prevent young people from being in-

volved in negative activities."
Under Iceland's Child Protection Act, children under 12 may not be outdoors after 8pm unless accompanied by an adult.

Children aged 13 to 16 may not be outdoors after 10pm, unless they are on their way home from a recognised event organised by their school, sports organisation or youth club.

Those who break the curfew are taken to a police station and their parents will have to pick them up there.

But some have questioned Iceland's law, saying it contravenes United Nations' Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and also violates the human rights of children.

man rights of children.

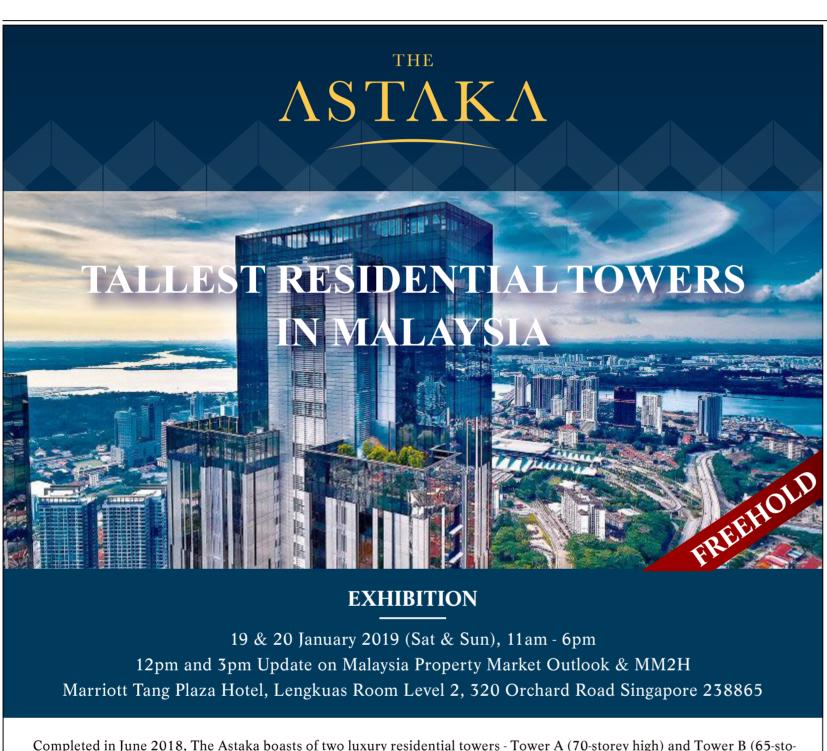
Many Malaysians are not in favour of imposing such a curfew. In a quick online poll by The Star, 49 per cent of the nearly 1,400 respondents opposed the idea. Still, 34 per cent of respondents think the curfew is a good idea, saying it would be a great way to combat social ills. And 17 per cent think it is a good idea, but warned it would be impossi-

ble to implement.

American psychology professor Harvey Milkman at the Reykjavik University said using the curfew approach is just one part of the Icelandic model to solve the problem.

"After-school activities are probably the most significant thing, because youth have things to do that are healthy and worthwhile," he said.

THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK



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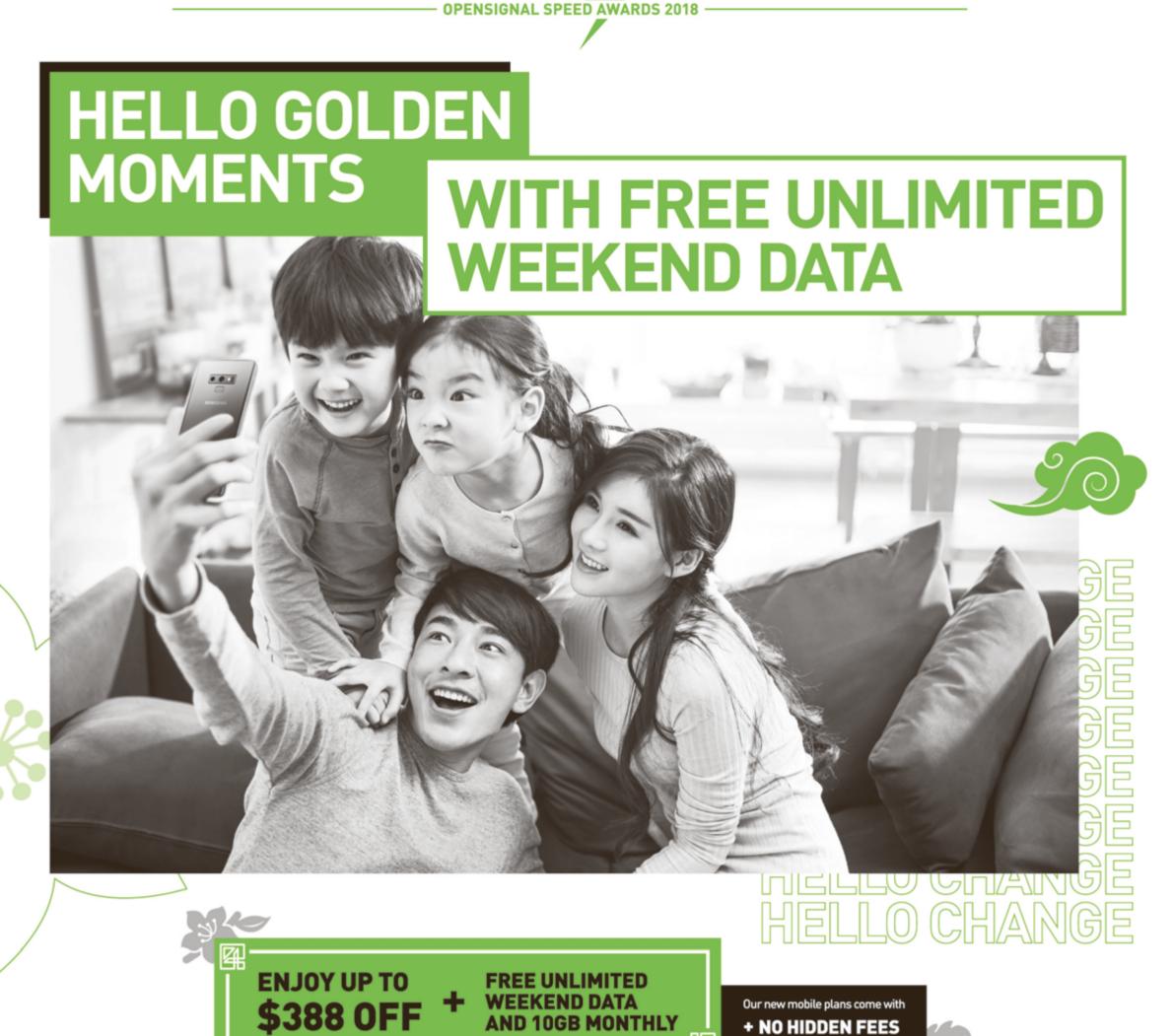
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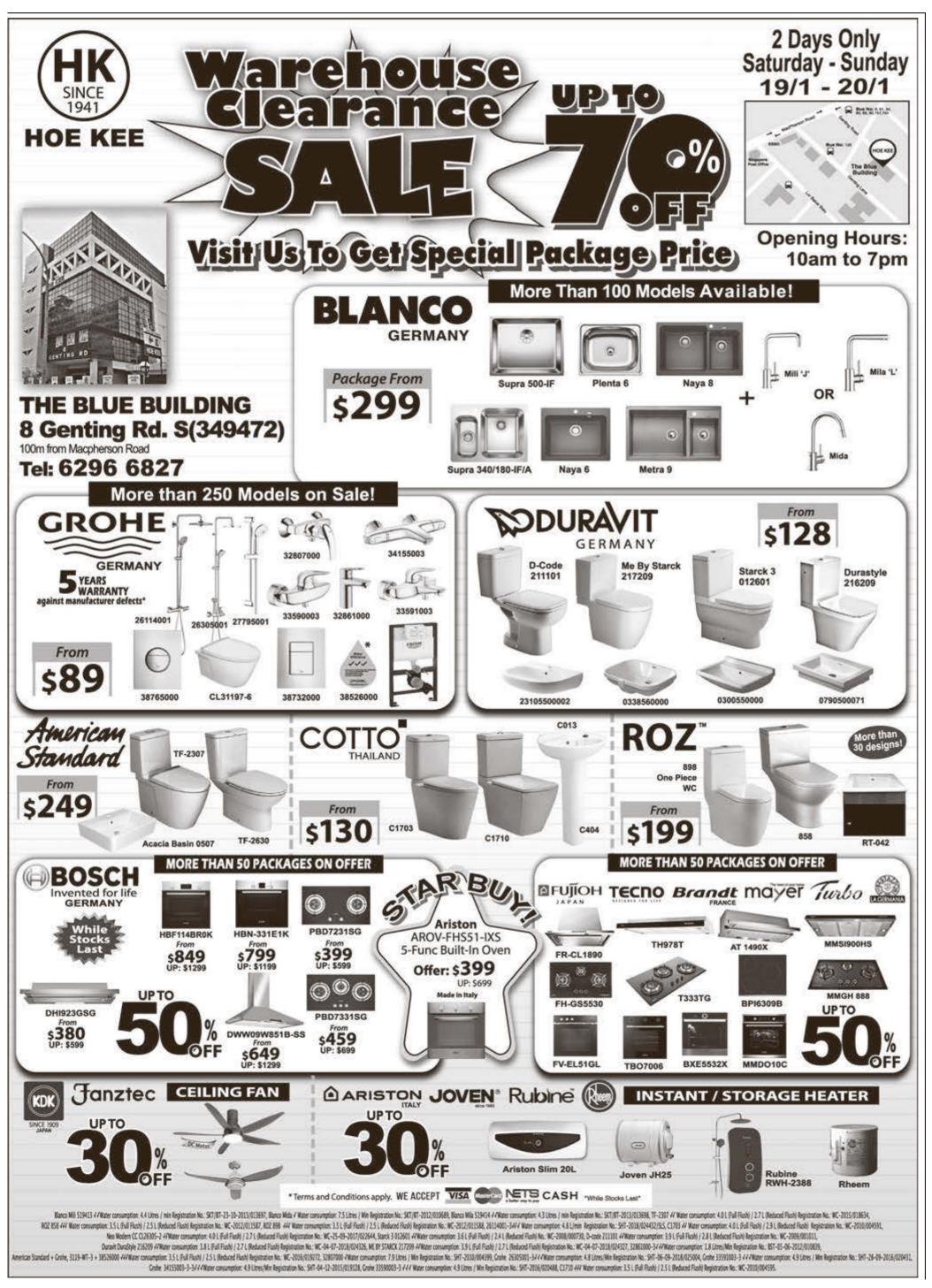


# First film on Thai cave rescue set for release



Above: The young footballers and their coach waiting to be rescued from the flooded cave in Chiang Rai last year. Right: Thai-born director Tom Waller says his film's focus is on authenticity and the mission's "unsung" heroes. PHOTOS: REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE





## Thai-born director worked with real-life heroes of operation to save young boys

BANGKOK • A Thai-born director who took just weeks to shoot the first film about the dramatic cave rescue of the "Wild Boars" football team says his focus is on authenticity and the mission's "unsung" heroes, with book publishers and Hollywood studios jostling to make their versions of the saga.

Mr Tom Waller says The Cave, which is aiming for a Thai release for the July anniversary of the operation, will be a "genuine" retelling of the gripping mission to rescue the 12 boys and their coach from the waterlogged Tham Luang cave.

Its cast features over a dozen of the real-life rescue heroes as well as extras such as the cooks who provided food round-the-clock as officials and the world's media massed at the cave entrance.

The footballers spent more than a fortnight trapped in the dark before divers rescued them in a mission of unprecedented complexity – taking the boys out through flooded and twisting passageways while they were heavily sedated.

Mr Waller, a Thai citizen with an Irish father and whose work includes The Last Executioner, said he did not immediately think he would take on the project despite its real-life dramatic arc.

"I thought it was going to be just a magnet for vultures who wanted to cash in," he told Agence France-Presse at the office for De Warrenne Pictures in Bangkok.

But then he started dwelling on all the people involved in the rescue, the volunteer spirit and the "unsung heroes that weren't in the newspapers".

"So for me it was almost a question of either make the film now or shut up and wait until Hollywood's made the film and enjoy it like everyone else."

Mr Waller hopes his Thai background will give him an edge over bigger-name foreign directors, while the swift turnaround means memories are still fresh in the minds of those who took part in both the rescue and the movie.

But challenges remained during the shoot. The real Tham Luang cave, in northern Chiang Rai province, is offlimits so locations recreating the waterlogged, claustrophobic conditions had to be scouted across the country.

The film also broadbrushes over some of the scandalous strands of the drama, which have led to lawsuits and social media squabbles.

"People keep asking, who is playing Elon Musk?" Mr Waller said, referring to the Tesla CEO's attempt to provide a submarine and his legal battles with a rescuer whom he insulted on Twitter.

The film's trailer is set to be launched at the Berlin Film Festival next month, getting out ahead of bigger, better-funded projects believed to be in the works that may have a wider reach outside of Thailand.

The cave saga has been hungrily eyed as a money-spinner, with foreign-scripted books and films lining up to gain official approval from the Ministry of Culture to shoot or interview the boys at the heart of the drama.

Seven months after the rescue, at least six books about the operation are already listed on Amazon while speculation is rife that Crazy Rich Asians director Jon Chu might enter the fray.

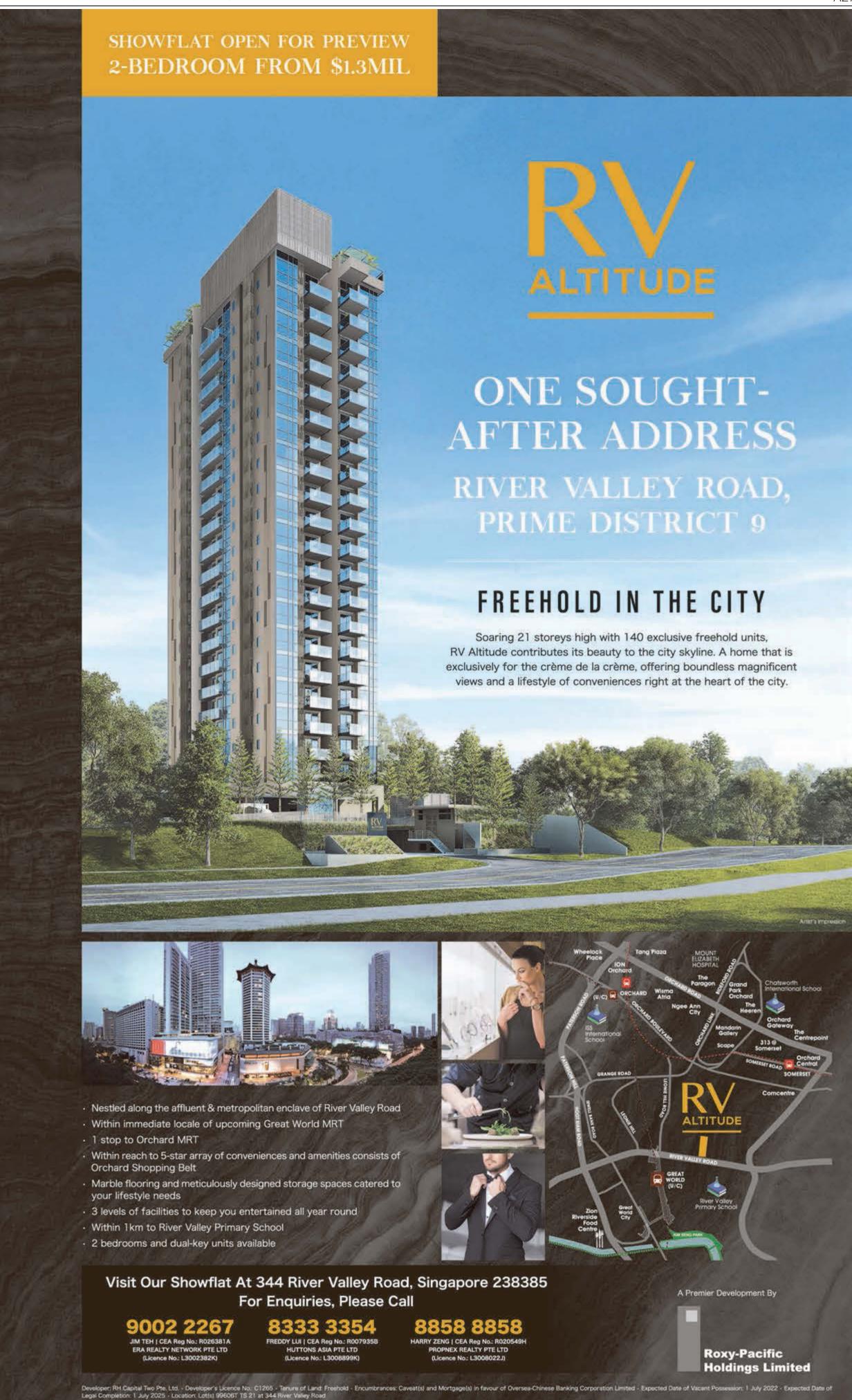
But while large Hollywood studios might stack the cast with Alisters and tinker with the plot for dramatic purposes, Mr Waller's film prides itself on its tethering to reality.

"Everything in the movie is 100 per cent true," said Mr Jim Warny, 36, a Belgian who lives in Ireland and belongs to the niche world of the cave divers who were called on to help, and who starred as himself in The Cave.

An electrician by training, Mr Warny told AFP that the period after the mission was intense, with the rescuers inundated with offers, including a request to take reality TV presenters cave diving.

Mr Waller built a different level of trust with him and the verite vision appealed to him.

"A lot of people just wanted to buy life rights or exclusivity, and waving a contract at you and not really focusing on the story before giving you a big lump of cash," said Mr Warny. "That was something Tom didn't do." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



# US missile plan may fuel arms race: Experts

Trump's goal is ambitious but will also prompt Russia and China to scale up deployment, they say



Nirmal Ghosh

US Bureau Chief In Washington

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President Donald Trump said the goal is simple: to ensure that the United States can detect and destroy any missile launched against it "anywhere, any time, any place".

He was talking about the country's first Missile Defence Review (MDR) since 2010, which he unveiled on Thursday during a visit to the Pentagon.



Military personnel listening to President Donald Trump during the Missile Defence Review event at the Pentagon on Thursday. Mr Trump said

implement what the MDR outlines, are expected in the coming months.

"A global comprehensive missile defence system would be technically unachievable and economically ruinous if you tried," said Dr Laura Grego, senior scientist in the Global Security Programme at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Previous studies on space-based anti-missile defence had concluded that it would be too expensive, and it remained to be seen if the President's rhetoric was reflected in the budget next month, she added.

Global missile defence, if it is possible, is decades away. In the meantime, the President wants to expand America's existing ground-based anti-missile interceptor systems.

"All over, foreign adversaries, competitors and rogue regimes are steadily enhancing their missile arsenals," he said. "Their arsenals are getting bigger and stronger... and they're focused on developing long-range missiles that could reach targets within the United States."

The US has its batteries of interceptors at Fort Greely and in Lompoc, California. But live fire tests have had a significant failure

"The system... has cost about US\$40 billion (S\$54.3 billion) so far, and about US\$1 billion per deployed interceptor," Mr Matt Korda, research associate at the Nuclear Information Project of the Federation of American Scientists, told The Straits Times.

There are now 44 deployed interceptors, and Congress has approved funds to deploy 20 more, or 64 by 2023, and there is talk of increasing that to more than 100, he noted.

"So we're looking at a huge, huge amount of money on a system that has continually failed proficiency tests - and under ideal conditions."

Mr Joe Cirincione, president of Ploughshares Fund, a global security foundation, told journalists: "Even if the weapons don't work, even if we can't afford them, the fact that you have now announced this process forces adversaries or potential adversaries to now ramp up their offensive capabilities.'

He added: "It is far cheaper for an adversary to increase his or her offensive capabilities than it is for you to deploy effective defensive capabilities."

"So this review in effect has thrown fuel on the ongoing fire of the nuclear arms race. This will now cause particularly China and Russia to increase their efforts and scale up their deployment."

nirmal@sph.com.sg

Mr Trump's plans to upgrade the US' ability to defend itself from missile attacks are ambitious - but they will also be very expensive and even technically unfeasible, analysts say.



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SOLUTIONS

# British agency to train girls in cyberskills

LONDON • Britain's national intelligence agency has unveiled plans to train about 600 teenage girls in cyberskills this year in a bid to get more women into the male-dominated field.

US' ability to defend itself from

even technically unfeasible,

layers both space- and

ground-based, including

aircraft with lasers and

The MDR outlines plans to

analysts say.

missile attacks are ambitious – but

they will also be very expensive and

enhance America's existing missile

defence shield, and add additional

technology to track and neutralise

missile-killing F-35 stealth fighters.

The plan is to expand America's

ground-based missile interceptors

upgrade electronics and radar to

missiles launched against the US,

to establishing a missile defence

programme that can shield every

A senior administration official

told journalists the US would work

with its allies as well. "We've had

successful collaborative efforts

with countries like Japan," the

But security experts say it could

The dream of missile defences has

also fuel a more furious arms race.

always tantalised nuclear planners,

Professor of Political Science at the

While missile defences could never intercept thousands of

Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles or even China's several

dozen, "they might have a sporting

chance at a handful like five to 10 -

that the missile defences that don't

work today might work tomorrow.

So they are off to the races," he said. The President's speech was more

expansive than the MDR itself. More studies, and plans to

if they work, which they don't". "China and Russia fear, though,

Mr Trump said. "We are committed

at Fort Greely in Alaska, and

immediately detect foreign

city in the United States."

some very substantial and

Dr Vipin Narang, Associate

 $Mass a chusetts \, Institute \, of \,$ Technology, wrote on Twitter.

official said.

hypersonic weapons, unmanned

The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) said it would choose girls aged 12 and 13 to take part in four-day courses in coding, cryptography, logic and protecting networks following a nationwide competition this month.

A spokesman for the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) said on Thursday the aim was to encourage more young people – particularly girls - to work in cyber security, with figures showing only 11 per cent of the global cyber workforce is female.

image

"We are looking to address this imbalance... Ensuring the inquisitive instincts of young people are maintained is hugely important," said NCSC deputy director Chris Ensor in a statement.

The initiative was welcomed by the technology industry and viewed as timely with British government figures showing that in 2017, about 43 per cent of businesses and 19 per cent of charities reported a cyber security breach over the course of a

"Often women and girls are coned off from the industry at a young age," said Ms Vinous Ali, head of policy at techUK that represents more than 900 technology start-ups and

Ms Ali said girls' early exposure to images of male James Bonds and teenage boys coding in their bedrooms reinforced stereotypes about who fitted in the tech sector.

She added that without role models, girls did not consider entering the field which has tried to address the lack of women by training staff in unconscious bias, highlighting female role models on social media, and deleting gender from curricula vitae.

Ms Ali said it was also important for the public sector to be a role model for diversity. Last year, British Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson announced that women could fight in front-line infantry, the Royal Marines and specialty units previously closed to them.

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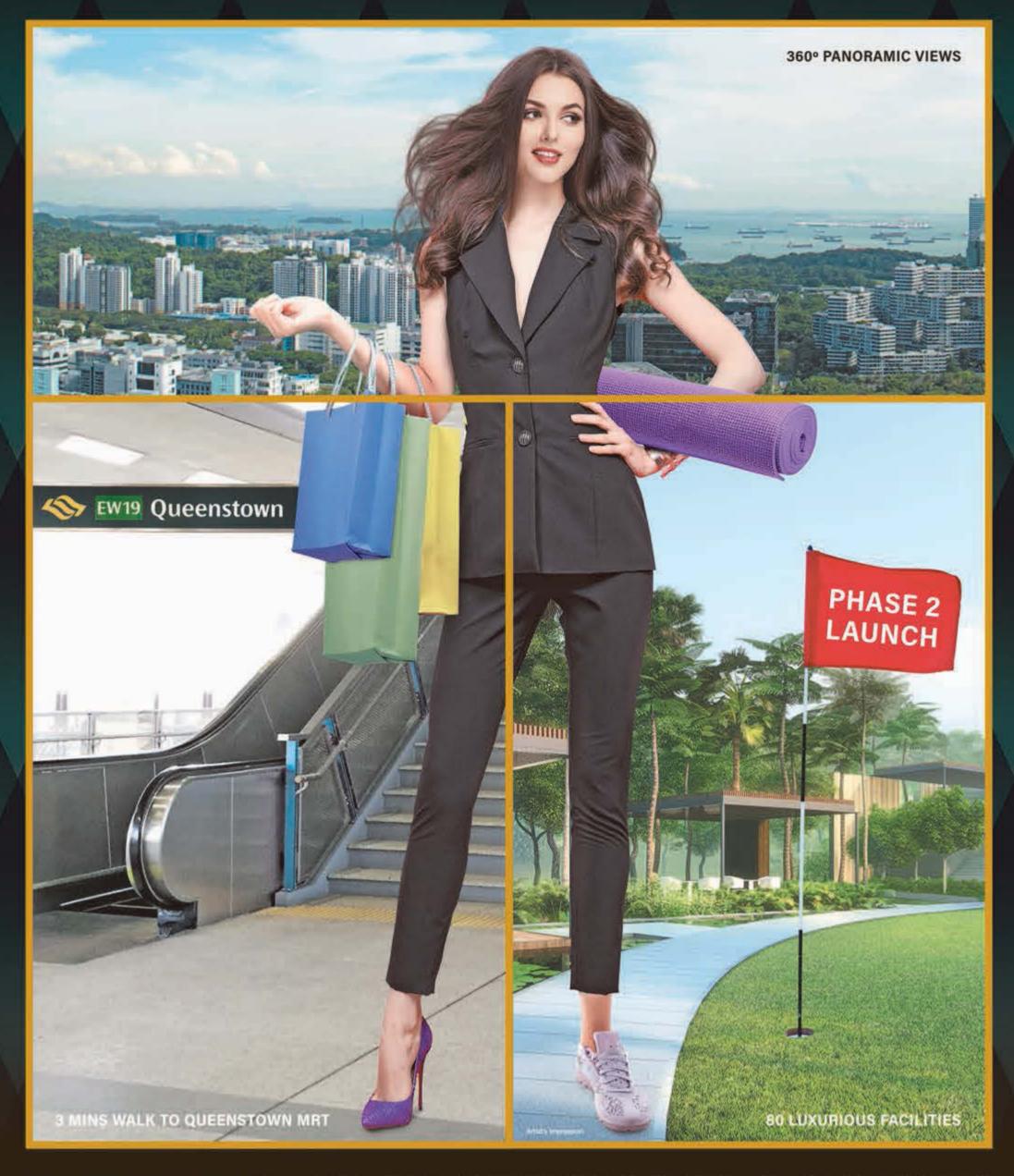
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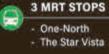




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# WORLD

# Economic gloom looms over annual Davos meet

Worries over trade disputes, slowing growth and Brexit to dominate WEF next week

**CALMING INVESTORS** 

Davos will be dominated by a high level of anxiety about stock markets, a slowdown in growth and international politics. The leadership presence is lower than last year, but those who are going... will be seeking to impart a sense of confidence and calm business and investors' nerves.

"

**DR NARIMAN BEHRAVESH**, chief economist at IHS Markit, on what to expect at the WEF next week.

MILAN • An array of crises will keep several world leaders away from the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos next week, which takes place against a backdrop of deepening gloom over the global economic and political outlook.

Anxieties over trade disputes, fractious international relations, Brexit and a growth slowdown that some fear could tip the world economy into recession are set to dominate the Jan 22 to 25 Alpine meeting.

The WEF's own Global Risks Report set the tone this week with a stark warning of looming economic headwinds, in part because of geopolitical tensions among major powers.

Some 3,000 business, government and civil society figures are due to gather in the snow-blanketed ski resort, but among them are only three leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) most industrialised countries: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.



The annual World Economic Forum is being held in Davos from Jan 22 to 25. US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Theresa May are skipping the meeting because of domestic crises. The leaders of China, Russia and India will also be absent. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mr Donald Trump, who stole the Davos limelight last year with a rare appearance by a sitting US president, pulled out of this year's event as he grapples with a partial US government shutdown.

The White House said on Thursday that Mr Trump had also cancelled his delegation's trip to Davos because of the shutdown.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had been expected to lead the US team, according to two senior administration officials.

French President Emmanuel Macron is also skipping the meeting as he seeks to respond to the "yellow vest" protests, while British Prime Minister Theresa May battles to find a consensus on Brexit.

es to find a consensus on Brexit.

Outside the G-7, the leaders of

Russia and India are shunning Davos.

China's President Xi Jinping – who was the first Chinese leader to attend the elite gathering in 2017 to offer a vigorous defence of free trade – is sending his deputy instead.

That will leave the likes of British Finance Minister Philip Hammond, Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishan and a host of central bankers with the task of trying to reassure business chiefs.

"Davos will be dominated by a high level of anxiety about stock markets, a slowdown in growth and international politics," said Dr Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Markit.

"The leadership presence is lower than last year, but those who are going... will be seeking to impart a sense of confidence and calm business and investors' nerves."

Before the US cancellation, a Trump administration official had said the US delegation would also discuss the importance of reforming institutions such as the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Davos watchers said the absence of so many top leaders this year did not mean the glitzy forum had lost its status as a global stage for top politicians to present their agen-

"Abe is going to Davos not just as Japanese prime minister, but also as chair of the Group of 20 (G-20). It will be a perfect opportunity to lay the groundwork for upcoming

G-20 meetings," said a Japanese government source.

"Of course there may be inconveniences such as missing opportunities to hold bilateral meetings, but that won't undermine the importance of Davos," he added.

Davos will be the first major international outing for Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, elected on a wave of anti-establishment and conservative nationalism also seen elsewhere. He said on Twitter he would present "a different Brazil, free of ideological ties and widespread corruption".

For business chiefs, the value of Davos lies not so much in the public sessions, but in the networking and dealmaking opportunities on the sidelines of the main conference.

REUTERS



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French President

**Emmanuel** 

Chancellor

Angela Merkel

after he was

awarded the

Charlemagne Prize in Aachen

last year. In the

German city next

Tuesday, the two

leaders will sign

an agreement renewing the

Elysee treaty of 1963.

PHOTO: REUTERS

German

Macron with

# Berlin, Paris close ranks but differences remain

While Germany and France will renew treaty, they have developed in very different ways

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Next Tuesday, Germany and France will celebrate their friendship with another treaty. In the German city of Aachen, where the Charlemagne Prize, or Karlspreis, is awarded yearly for special achievements for Europe, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron will sign an agreement that will renew the Elysee treaty of 1963.

However, all the pomp and circumstance around the signing



Economically, Germany is in a significantly better position today

than France. The country has

recovered well from the financial crisis 10 years ago and can look

Germany, with an unemployment rate of 3.3 per cent, according to European Union statistics office

neighbour. Berlin outperforms Paris in other key economic indicators too. German trade balance is three

Eurostat, has three times fewer

jobless people than its western

times that of France and, for the fifth year in a row, Germany is running a budget surplus while France has consistently been in the red.

Most importantly, for the future, while France is piling up more and more sovereign debt now standing close to 100 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) -Germany has been able to consolidate its debts.

Last month, for the first time in 22 years, the German debt clock started to run backwards.

This year, chances are that the debt-to-GDP ratio will fall under the magic 60 per cent threshold, a barrier set in the Maastricht Treaty for EU member states, and in particular for countries that use the euro – the single currency adopted by 19 of the 28 EU countries.

The debt quota will play a major role once the low-interest-rate policy of the European Central Bank fades out. If interest rates rise again, so will the share of their budgets on debt service which countries have to spend – hence reducing budget leeway.

The economic differences between the two countries run even deeper though.

While Germany is based on a federal system with strong regions and various powerful private companies, France is a centralised state run from its capital Paris.

This is also mirrored in their economic policies. Germany pursues a kind of "managed capitalism" with an emphasis on supply-side policies, whereas France's industry clearly is state-dominated and oriented on the demand side. If private demand is not strong enough to keep the economy going, the state steps in. This also happens in Germany, but to a much lesser degree. Paris thus intervenes much more in economic decision-making than Berlin does. In terms of the national quota -

the ratio of government expenditure to GDP - France tops the list in the EU with 65.5 per cent, while Germany with 43.9 per cent

ranks somewhere in the middle. Against this backdrop, the pledge in the new treaty to establish a joint economic zone based on common rules, laws and economic policy measures reads somewhat oddly. It is unclear how two economies so different from each other can

possibly become closer. The discrepancies in French and German economic policy thinking came into the open last year, when a common European budget was discussed.

Although Germany eventually caved in and nodded through a joint budget, the actual size of it will be tiny and will very likely not generate any major impact.

Berlin agreed to the common budget only when it was accused of obstructing Mr Macron's efforts to reform the EU, observers say.

The establishment of euro bonds - bond issues by the euro zone where all parties are liable jointly and severally - is also not welcome in Germany. Berlin is convinced that this would be an invitation to countries less prone to a sound financial policy to take a free ride.

In the end, Berlin is afraid that the strong members of the euro zone have to foot the bill if other issuers of the bonds fail to honour their obligations. While France supports the idea, Germany would rather try not to talk about it.

Much stronger, though, is the political position of France. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, a nuclear power and a country with substantial military capabilities, it is better equipped to play a major role on the international stage.

Moreover, Paris seems to exude elegance and grandeur, whereas Berlin is usually seen as rather dour. The French people also have an unbroken belief in their own greatness, but Germans, still burdened with their past, would rather put the nation state to rest and instead embrace the European idea.

French professions of faith to Europe are therefore met with doubt in some German quarters. Critics question whether France really wants to give up significant parts of its sovereignty for a supranational Europe – or whether it simply wants to model Europe after the French paragon.

At least Paris, in the new treaty, pledges to support a permanent seat for Germany in the UN Security Council – although for the time being this plan will hardly become reality.

In 1963, when French President Charles de Gaulle and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer inked  $the \, Elysee \, treaty, the \, agreement$ was also not embraced by everyone. There was great fear that France would pull Germany away from the transatlantic alliance with the United States.

Today, with a transatlantic partnership that is already heavily damaged, this is not a concern.

Given the anti-European sentiment of US President Donald Trump, many Western European countries have already started to look elsewhere for partners or to improve existing ties. It is all the more important that the high hopes attached to the renewed Franco-German friendship do not vanish into thin air.

ziener.markus@gmail.com

#### ceremony cannot cover the fact **Markus Ziener** that the two neighbours have developed in very different ways. back to years of growth. Global Affairs Correspondent In Berlin

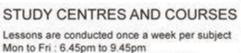
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# Prince Philip, 97, unhurt after car flips over in crash

LONDON • Queen Elizabeth's 97year-old husband Prince Philip was recovering at the couple's home in eastern England vesterday after escaping without injury when his car flipped over following a crash with another vehicle.

Prince Philip was at the wheel of his Land Rover when it collided with another car on a road close to the royals' Sandringham private residence in Norfolk on Thursday, Buckingham Palace said.

While the woman driver and a female passenger in the other car, which also had a baby on board, needed hospital treatment for minor injuries, Prince Philip was unhurt, although shaken.

"It was an astonishing escape for everyone," said Mr Roy Warne, 75, who was driving home with his wife when he saw the collision and pulled the prince from the wreckage. "He didn't make a big fuss about it and he went to ask everyone else if they were injured."

Witnesses told media the accident occurred when Prince Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, was pulling out of a driveway onto a main road. Pictures from the scene showed the Land



The collision with another car occurred while Prince Philip was driving near the Sandringham estate on Thursday.

Rover overturned on the side of the road.

Police said, in accordance with policy in collisions, both drivers were breathalysed but both tests turned up negative.

Famous for verbal gaffes but generally regarded with wry affection by Britons, Prince Philip married Queen Elizabeth in 1947 and has been by his wife's side throughout her long reign.

Since retiring from official solo duties in 2017, he has appeared in public alongside the Queen at events and church services. He had successful hip replacement surgery last vear.

The former naval officer did not accompany the Queen to a church service on Christmas Day last month, though a royal source said he was in good health. REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

# Rhine, Europe's most important river, running dry

## Critical transport artery was choked off last year and slowed economic growth

FRANKFURT • Mr Kevin Kilps' car ferry churns the waters of Germany's Rhine river as he steers towards the bank opposite Kaub, a scenic village just south of the rocky outcropping named after the legendary siren Lorelei.

It's typically a busy stretch of waterway. On a normal day, the commuter ferry vies for space with cargo barges shuttling supplies to factories in the south and German goods to ports on the North Sea as well as tourist boats heading for nearby mediaeval castles and vineyards.

After a prolonged summer drought, the bustling traffic at one of the shallowest points on the Rhine ground to a halt for nearly a month late last year, choking off a critical transport artery. The impact dampened Germany's industrial machine, slowing economic growth in the third and fourth quarters.

It was the latest sign of how even advanced industrial economies are increasingly fighting the effects of global warming.

"You can see the water levels are lower each year," said Mr Kilps, who added extra flotation equipment to the 150-tonne boat to enable it to cross the river again. "It's scary to watch the climate change."

With its source high in the Swiss Alps, the Rhine – Europe's most important river – snakes approximately 1,290km through the industrial zones of Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands before emptying into the sea at Rotterdam, Europe's busiest port. It serves as a key conduit for manufacturers such as Daimler AG, Robert Bosch GmbH and Bayer AG.

When low water halted shipping this summer, steelmaker Thyssen-krupp AG was forced to delay shipments to customers such as automaker Volkswagen AG.

Constraints on the Rhine cost BASF SE around €250 million (\$\$386.6 million) by pushing the chemical maker to use more expensive transport options. In a recent newspaper interview, BASF chief executive officer Martin Brudermueller called for major infrastructure investments such as locks and dams that can release water to ensure shipping lanes remain open.

"We have already seen the effects on national economic growth," said Mr Oliver Rakau, chief German economist at Oxford Economics. "The problem is related to global warming and can happen again."

The river is fed by glaciers and rain. But alpine ice flows shrank 28 per cent between 1973 and 2010 – the date of the most recent indepth study by the Swiss government – and that decline may be as much as 35 per cent now, according to Dr Wilfried Hagg, glacier expert at Munich University.

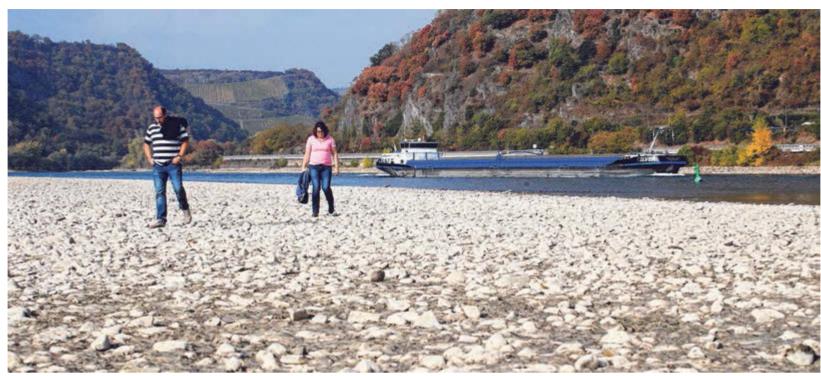
"The Alps are warming at an even faster rate as snow and ice melts," he said. "A warming climate means that incidents like low river levels are more likely to occur."

Water depths, which hit 12-year lows at Kaub for most of the second half of last year, hobbled barge flows for months. The boats, which typically haul more than 18,000 barrels of diesel each, were prevented from loading at full capacity until late last month. Fluctuating water levels continued to affect cargo activity this month, according to Riverlake Barging, a Rotterdam-based broker.

Fuel pumps at some gas stations in Baden-Wuerttemberg ran dry this summer because of supply problems, which led to the release of emergency stockpiles in Switzerland and Germany. Natural gas prices in Europe jumped 13 per cent in November, when utilities boosted output at gas-fired generators as they struggled to get supplies for coal plants.

Even with Germany's extensive road and train networks, the Rhine is hard to beat. Barges can carry more than five times their own weight, making them cheap to operate. Shipping from Rotterdam to Basel costs around 40 per cent less than rail transport, according to the German Federal Institute of Hydrology.

To thwart future transportrelated disruptions to the economy, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government is mulling measures such as permanently easing Sunday restrictions on truck traffic in Rhine states, lightening loads on barges and improving freight train connections. BLOOMBERG



The exposed river bed of the Rhine near Bacharach, Germany. Water levels hit a historic low level late last year and freight vessels could not sail fully loaded on Europe's most important waterway. PHOTO: REUTERS

# German beer labels to include calorie info

BERLIN • Curious how you ended up with that beer belly?

A33

Starting this year, German brewers say they will begin adding information to their labels, explaining exactly how many calories you are consuming each time you put back a bottle.

Although the EU Commission has threatened to require such labelling, the German Brewers Federation and the Private Breweries of Germany both said yesterday that they were making the move of their own free will.

The new labels will be phased in over the course of this year.

So far, European Union laws do not require alcoholic beverages to come with nutritional labelling.

But a survey by the INSA data group for the brewers showed that 52 per cent of German consumers would welcome such information.

The brewers say they hope winemakers and distillers will follow their example. A standard pilsner contains about 40 calories per 100ml of beer. DPA



Beautiful Science

# Strengthening cyber-security defences

Two centres will design privacy tech to keep data safe, provide businesses with solutions

Cheryl Teh

Two research centres have been set up to look into designing privacy throughout its life cycle and sepathe-shelf solutions to keep their

The centres, at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), have been given \$22 million cent cases of the SingHealth data in total. Their mandate: to keep private data private in the era of the Smart Nation. Both centres were worldwide. There are two issues to set up by the National Research be addressed here – security and Foundation Singapore.

The Strategic Centre for Research in Privacy-Preserving Tech- the firm was accused of taking the nologies and Systems (SCRIPTS), based at NTU, will be led by Professor Lam Kwok Yan, programme sion to influence the United States chair (secure community) at NTU election in 2016.

Graduate College. The NUS Centre for Research in 16 researchers is working to de- different adversaries working to ob- used by health agencies and re-Privacy Technologies (N-CRiPT) velop cutting-edge technology to tain information of varying value, searchers to analyse medical data provide businesses with off-thewill be affiliated with the NUS prevent breaches.

Smart Systems Institute. The centre will be led by Professor Mohan Kankanhalli, dean of the NUS

N-CRiPT will work on preventing technologies that can protect data privacy leaks and coming up with solutions to protect data throughrately, provide businesses with off- out its life cycle – from when it is created, to the point of its collection and curation, and all the way to its analysis and archiving.

"Privacy has been pushed to the forefront, especially with the rebreach, and the case of Cambridge Analytica, which affected people privacy," said Prof Kankanhalli.

In the Cambridge Analytica case, personal information of millions of Facebook users without permis-Prof Kankanhalli said his team of

"There is no magic wand that can able, and some are not." solve all cyber-security problems. For instance, technology devel-

For different kinds of data, and the oped by N-CRiPT might one day be promising an individual's privacy.

terns obtained from transport and

PHOTO: NANYANG

Kwok Yan (in

dark blue),

Dr Victor Chu

of individuals, thus ensuring their "We at SCRIPTS will leverage on NTU' multidisciplinary research expertise in the areas of AI, data science, mathematics and cryptography, to investigate how we can solve privacy-preserving problems," he

"This tech, when developed, will enable the sharing of data without compromising privacy, thus allowtelecom companies without coming a bigger data set to be available, from hospitals, financial institutions Meanwhile, NTU's SCRIPTS will and other businesses."

It will collaborate with Singapore

cyber-security company i-Sprint In-

novations to develop an e-logistics solution that will prevent counter-

feiting, while ensuring commercial

The centre said this solution can

be used for fast moving consumer

goods, pharmaceutical and health

products, luxury products, food sup-

A large amount of data is needed

to develop more accurate analysis

and insights. Prof Lam said SCRIPTS

will develop ways for data to be col-

lected and still protect the identity

information remains private.

plies and more.

some solutions are already avail- from clinics, or to study travel pat- shelf solutions for privacy and tienli@sph.com.sg



While there are studies on the impact of haze on human well-being, its effect on other species and ecosystems is rarely explored.

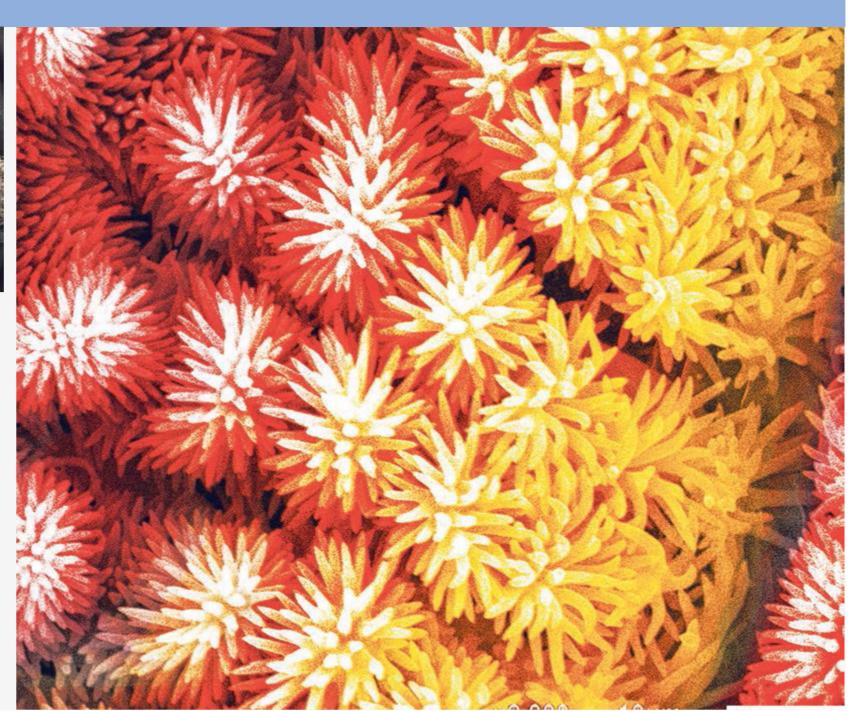
A study led by Associate Professor Antonia Monteiro from the Department of Biological Sciences at the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Science has revealed that toxic chemicals in haze can affect the survival and development of butterflies, said the university.

Insects are very sensitive to changes in air quality because air reaches their inner cells directly through valve-like openings known as spiracles on the sides of their bodies. The diffusion of gases then takes place close to each cell via very fine tracheal tubes that transport the air from the spiracles to the inside of the body. In humans, the air first diffuses into the blood system in the lungs before reaching cells.

The researchers discovered that when the caterpillars of the Squinting Bush Brown Butterfly (Bicyclus anynana) were exposed to artificially generated smoke from burning incense coils, a large proportion did not survive to adulthood. Those that did survive took longer to reach adulthood, and were smaller. A smaller size usually leads to lower egg production.

These findings provide insight into the adverse effects of haze smoke on insects, said NUS. As butterflies are easy to identify and monitor, they could be used as bioindicators of the health of an ecosystem for better haze

Here, the image above shows a caterpillar of the Squinting Bush Brown Butterfly and the image on the right is a magnified view of its spiracle openings. PHOTOS: NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE



Customs officers in China seized a cannonball tree fruit – which they said could potentially explode – from a traveller who was returning from Singapore earlier this month. The fruit is among several edible but relatively unknown oddities found here. Mr Ng Cheow Kheng, group director of Horticulture and Community Gardening at the National Parks Board, highlights some others.

# 1. Asam gelugor

(Garcinia atroviridis) Native to the region, the asam gelugor (garcinia atroviridis) is a tall tree able to grow up to 27m. Young 3. Noni leaves flush red and are eaten as ulam (salad) in Malaysia. The flow- The noni (morinda citrifolia) is cooked to become jams, syrups and ers are large and showy with bright found throughout the tropics and jellies. It can also be cooked with crimson petals. The tree is widely can grow in a wide range of environ-kundang (bouea macrophylla) to cultivated for its fruit which is or- ments. It grows into a small tree, make a chutney. ange-yellow when ripe and shaped reaching 10m in height. Flowers are like a pumpkin. The fruit can be small and white. The fruit is egg 5. Belinjau used fresh or sun-dried, cooked to shaped, white to pale green and soft (Gnetum gnemon) in recipes.

# 2. Island lychee

(Pometia pinnata)

nata) is native to Singapore, but can mercial popularity of noni has risen but the seeds are the most nutrialso be found across a wide geo- in recent years due to its purported tious. They are pounded into flat graphical range from Sri Lanka and health benefits, the majority of slices, deep fried and eaten as a Southern China to the Western Pa- which still require further study. cific. It can grow up to 50m tall with spreading buttress roots reaching

4. Rukam masam up to 5m in height. Its ornamental (Flacourtia inermis) young leaves flush in an attractive The rukam masam (flacourtia iner-paste). Emping industries exist in white to green-yellow, forming in to 15m tall and is found naturally this snack in the region. Traditionbunches. The oval fruit is a deep puracross eastern Indonesia. It proally, smoking of the belinjau wood ple colour when ripe. Cracking the duces bright orange-red flushes of can help to relieve the itch from the outer shell reveals a translucent, young leaves and the cherry-like Anopheles mosquito which is comjuicy flesh that is sweet when eaten fruit are a bright shiny red when monin more rural and natural envifresh, and a single hard, dark brown ripe. These look very attractive and ronments.

longan (Dimorcarpus longan).

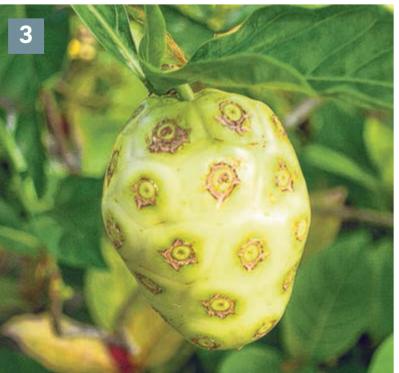
(Morinda citrifolia)

seed at the centre. The taste and tex- festive hanging in bunches on the ture of the fruit resembles that of tree. The ripe fruit has whitish flesh tinged with pink containing a few hard seeds. It has a strong sour and astringent taste when eaten raw, but can be more palatable when

impart bright tart flavours to rel- when ripe. Noni is used in tradi- The belinjau (gnetum gnemon) is a ishes, stews and curries. Due to its tional medicine and as a famine food critically endangered species naacidic nature, it can sometimes be in Polynesian cultures. The fruit contive to Singapore. This tree has a peused as an alternative to tamarind tains many small seeds and the flesh culiar botanical feature; it produces tastes bitter when eaten fresh but male and female cones instead of can be blended into juices. Overripe flowers. The fruit are oval and ripen fruit is said to taste like very sharp from green to yellow to orange to cheese or even vomit. Despite its red. The young leaves and flower-The island lychee (pometia pin- off-putting taste and smell, the coming shoots are edible when cooked, snack called emping or belinjau crackers. Emping has a slightly bitter taste and goes well with dips made from spicy belacan (shrimp red colour. Flowers are small and mis) is a fruit tree that can grow up Indonesia to feed the appetite for











### Illegal to pluck or collect fruit

In Singapore, do not pluck fruit, or keep any that have fallen in parks, nature reserves and along roads in NParksmanaged areas. Collecting, plucking and keeping of fruit are not permitted under the Parks and Trees Act. Animals feed on these fruit and plants also depend on animals to disperse their seeds. Some plants have evolved a thick layer to protect the seeds while other plants have toxic chemicals in

PHOTOS: ANG WEE FOONG, JESSICA TEO,

# Young scientists pow wow in S'pore

# They will discuss latest breakthroughs, get opportunity to interact with Nobel laureates ence", and "Basic Scientific Research and the Quantity of Life".

The Global Young Scientists Suments of the Nobel Prize, Fields row with more than 200 re- Prize and Turing Award – who will searchers gathering to discuss the be giving presentations. latest breakthroughs in science They will give lectures on topics versities, research institutions and

and technology. The summit will focus on the latest advances in science and tech- **Apart from getting up** nology, and how research can de- close with their heroes, velop solutions to address major

global challenges. The young scientists, aged 35 **getto discuss with them** and below, hail from 23 countries. At the summit, they will have the opportunity to be mentored by ask questions about their Nobel laureates and other emi- experiences, as well as nent researchers in disciplines inget advice on career cluding chemistry, physics, biol-

ence and engineering. Apart from getting up close with their heroes, the young researchers will get to discuss with them more personal topics, and ask questions about their experiences, as well as get advice on career opportunities in their fields.

ogy, mathematics, computer sci-

the young researchers will more personal topics, and

There is a line-up of 16 speakers of medicine and healthcare, and at the summit – including recipithe human side of science. They mit kicks off in Singapore tomor- Medal, Millennium Technology trends and discoveries in scientific research and technology.

such as "Mathematics: Science or

They will chair panel discussions on topics such as the future will also offer insights into key

Participants will get to visit unipublic agencies to find out how science and technology solutions are developed in Singapore to meet

the nation's needs. To engage the layman in scientific research, some lectures and panel discussions at the summit will be open to the public. These events will be held at Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Victoria Junior College and

National Library Building. The seventh edition of the summit, organised by the National Research Foundation Singapore, will end next Friday.

tienli@sph.com.sg

# Award-winning speakers at the summit

**PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY** 2016: **PROFESSOR BEN FERINGA** 



ecules move is normally governed by chance. Eheart of modern electronics, and Efellow computer science student But in 1999, Professor Ben : are found in solar cells, computer : Shafi Goldwasser found the an-Feringa created the first molecuitchips, batteries and lasers. But it swer to a seemingly trivial queslar motor, which could be made semiconductors would not be tion - how can we play poker seto spin in only one direction and possible without Professor curely over the phone? is used to direct molecular ma- : Tuomo Suntola's invention. chines' movement. Based on this In 1974, he invented a tech- fix the larger problem of how to concept, he created molecule- i nique for developing ultra-thin is safely receive and exchange insized cars that can scoot along a : films that measure only a few mil- : formation - encrypting single surface, and artificial muscles ilionths of a millimetre on any ibits of data by creating a public-

This opened up new possibilie efficient and tiny semiconduce phy. For their contributions, proties in chemistry and nanotechtors to be made. nology, earning him the Nobel: Prize in Chemistry in 2016 along- "with high-efficiency smart- in 2012 – the highest accolade side two other scientists.



tors lie at the

For helping to make our lives were awarded the Turing Award phone, computers and social megiven to computer scientists. dia possible", Prof Suntola received the biennial Millennium : Cheryl Teh Technology Prize last year, one of the biggest technology awards

AWARD 2012: **PROFESSOR** SILVIO MICALI In the early 1980s, Silvio

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# OPINION

THESTRAITSTIMES

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**The Straits Times says** 

# More women should come on board

he formation of a new council to get more women on the boards of organisations marks another step towards gender equality in Singapore. In the last four years, the proportion of women on the boards of Singapore's top 100 listed companies doubled to 15 per cent. The Council for Board Diversity, consisting of 20 members – nine men and 11 women – used to be known as the Diversity Action Committee, which was formed in 2014 and focused on SGX-listed companies. It will enjoy expanded scope to look into female representation on the boards of organisations in the public sector and people sector, which includes non-governmental organisations, voluntary welfare organisations and charities.

Much as with income disparities, the low proportion of women on company boards militates against the concept of a meritocratic society. It is implausible that the 15 per cent figure, while constituting a vast improvement over previous data, is all that is possible in a country where women have moved forward with men in education and at work. In a 2014 United Nations report, the Republic was ranked 13th out of 155 countries, making it the top Asian country for gender equality. Other statistics are sobering. For example, the World Economic Forum has ranked Singapore fifth out of Asia's 10 most gender-equal countries, after the Philippines, Bangladesh, Mongolia and Laos. The report also notes, however, that Singa-

pore saw "a notable increase in female labour-force participation and continued a trend now approaching near-parity in technical and professional workers". In the vanguard fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, degree courses in sciences and architecture have seen more female students than men in the last decade, although women remain under-represented in IT and engineering courses. While gender equality has not been achieved, it is a goal that society takes seriously.

Building on the spirit of those endeavours, the new council needs to convince laggards that having more women on their boards would enhance the social attractiveness of organisations just as ethnic diversity does. Leading corporate players would be out of sync with the rest of society were their board profiles to resemble the contours of a bygone patriarchal age. The people sector would fall short of the claims of its very name were this to be so. Often, there is no intended discrimination at work: organisations merely stick to what they have been doing and what has served them. But that attitude is a dangerous one. The same meritocratic logic that has propelled women to senior leadership positions across the economic map of Singapore must help them clear the hurdle to boardroom entry. Over time, their enhanced presence on boards will become a fact of social life. The sooner the better.

**ByInvitation** 

# Afghanistan: The elusive end game

President Donald Trump wants US troops out of a seemingly endless, costly war. This would likely draw more external players to the arena in a battle over strategic interests.



C. Raja Mohan

For The Straits Times

Every American military intervention in a distant land, it is said, begins as a great crusade and ends in a chaotic search for the exits. After 17 years, US\$2 trillion (S\$2.7 trillion) and thousands of lives lost in the Afghan war, US President Donald Trump wants out. Soon.

Mr Trump has reportedly decided to withdraw about half of the 14,000 US troops stationed in Afghanistan. Last September, he appointed a special envoy, Mr Zalmay Khalilzad, to look for an early political settlement. In pursuit of that quest, Mr Khalilzad has been shuttling between different capitals – from Abu Dhabi to Beijing, Qatar to Delhi, Riyadh to Islamabad and Kabul.

An Afghan-American, Mr Khalilzad knows the region well. He was then President George W. Bush's envoy to Afghanistan and Iraq following the Sept 11, 2001, attacks and the subsequent US occupation of the two countries. He also served as Mr Bush's permanent representative to the United Nations.

His latest mission is not an easy one. It will be hard for him to negotiate peace with the Taleban militants, ousted by US-led forces in 2001, when they know that America no longer has the will to continue the fight. What you can't win on the battlefield, as the old adage goes, you can't extract at the negotiating table.

# DANGEROUS VACUUM

The Trump administration's rush to leave Afghanistan is stoking fears in the region. Beyond that the US troop pullout will embolden the Taleban, undermine the government in Kabul, create a new wave of blood-letting in the country and encourage a vigorous effort by Afghanistan's neighbours to fill the vacuum left by the Americans.

The fears are not unfounded but these considerations are unlikely to outweigh the domestic political dynamic in the United States, where frustration over the seemingly endless war has grown over the years.

When Mr Trump's predecessor Barack Obama came to office in 2009, he too was deeply pessimistic about the prospects for a military victory in Afghanistan. Rather than devote energies to fixing troubles in other nations like Afghanistan, he had argued, America should focus on nation-building at home.

But Mr Obama was persuaded by the armed forces to give them one more shot at winning the war. He agreed in 2009 to dramatically raise the number of US troops in Afghanistan to nearly 140,000, but set a deadline of 2014 to vacate the place. With no victory in sight by 2014, he agreed to keep a small number of troops in Afghanistan and leave it to his successor to decide the future course.

Mr Trump decried the waste of American blood and treasure in foreign wars while on the campaign trail. Once in the White House, he was persuaded by his initial security team – notably General H. R. McMaster, his national security adviser, and General James Mattis, his defence secretary, to renew efforts at winning the war.

In addition to a small increase in troop strength, a new South Asia strategy was announced in 2017 which intensified political and economic pressure on Pakistan to stop supporting the Taleban militants in an effort to get them to negotiate. But now, with both generals out of the administration, Mr Trump is reported to want a troop pullout by summer.

# TALEBAN TALKS

Mr Khalilzad's efforts began with some promise – his first round of meetings with Taleban leaders in Abu Dhabi last December was said to be positive. But it did not take long for the process to stall.

In Abu Dhabi, the parties had sought to reassure each other on two issues – that the US will withdraw its forces eventually from Afghanistan and that the Taleban would not host terror groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the country when the troops are gone.

Translating these two general principles into reality was never going to be easy. Meanwhile, other issues are threatening to derail the talks. The US would like the Taleban to engage the Afghan government in Kabul on the important issues of political reconciliation, starting with a ceasefire and a period of transition and ending in an understanding of what a political new dispensation should look like and how it can be constructed in a peaceful manner.

There are many potential deal breakers, but right now the problem is a simple one – of direct talks between the government in Kabul and the Taleban. The Taleban refuses to engage the Afghan government, which it deems a "puppet regime" of foreign forces.



Last week, the Taleban cancelled a second round of talks with the US in Qatar. It accuses the Americans of raising such "extraneous issues" as direct talks, and insists that political reconciliation would take place only among Afghans after the country is freed from foreign occupation.

Put simply, the Taleban is telling the Americans: "You get out first and we will sort things among ourselves afterwards." One does not have to be a genius to figure out that the Taleban is utterly confident that it can run over Kabul soon after the international presence ends.

The jockeying among multiple external stakeholders will likely intensify should Afghanistan's political coherence and territorial integrity break down after the Americans leave. The Taleban might well prevail in Afghanistan after the American forces leave. But its victory will be short-lived.

Meanwhile, the Taleban and other insurgent groups have been stepping up attacks. On Wednesday, four Americans were killed by a suicide bomb attack in the city of Manbij. ISIS claimed responsibility for the strike, which targeted a restaurant used by US troops patrolling the area. Although the Afghan security forces have shown great valour, the odds for survival of the government in Kabul against the Taleban's military offensive are likely to lengthen with a US pullout. That brings Pakistan right into the picture.

# PAKISTAN AND OTHER PLAYERS

Pakistan has an open border of nearly 2,500km with Afghanistan. The Durand Line drawn arbitrarily by the British Raj in 1896 runs through the lands of the Pashtuns, who form the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan and a significant minority in Pakistan. The Taleban's strongest support is among the Pashtuns.

The American war against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan during the 1980s and the Taleban war against American presence since the end of 2001 could not have been fought without bases in Pakistan and a measure of support from its all-powerful security establishment. Any one familiar with Afghanistan will acknowledge that no peace in the country is possible without Pakistan's backing.

Mr Trump makes no secret of his deep disappointment with

Pakistan, which is seen in
Washington as playing both sides
of the Afghan war – of allowing
America to wage a war in
Afghanistan while undermining
the US by letting militants
destabilise the Kabul government.
It is not clear if Mr Trump's
decision to cut off aid to Pakistan

decision to cut off aid to Pakistan and his repeated warnings to Islamabad against supporting terror have had the desired effect. What is clear, though, is that Pakistan's leverage with both Washington and the Taleban is now reaching a peak.

But it should also be noted that whatever course Islamabad decides upon, one cannot assume that the Taleban will merely follow.
The group has a mind and agency all of its own.

India, which has consistently supported Kabul since the ouster of the Taleban, is concerned that the group's return to power would give a boost to religious extremism and terrorism in the region. New Delhi is certainly not enthused about Pakistan expanding its influence in Afghanistan during and after the American withdrawal.

Pakistan and India are not the only actors in the power play over Afghanistan. Neighbouring Iran, too, has a significant role in its future. Iran and the Taleban have little in common, but Teheran has sustained links with the group over the years.

As its conflict with the US deepens, Teheran has no reason to

see Mr Trump succeed in
Afghanistan. Neither does Iran
want its regional rivals, Saudi
Arabia and the United Arab
Emirates, which are helping
Washington and Kabul by nudging
the Taleban to talk, to widen their
role in Afghanistan. The Saudis and
the Emiratis were the only ones,
other than Pakistan, to recognise
the Taleban government when it
ruled Afghanistan in 1996-2001.

Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose ambition is to become the leader of the Islamic world, wants to broker the political future of Afghanistan. Separately, Qatar, which punches way above its weight in the Middle East, has inserted itself into the Afghan power play by hosting a Taleban political office in Doha. But the Taleban has learnt to take advantage of the regional rivalries in the Middle East.

The three Central Asian
Republics – Turkmenistan,
Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – on
the northern borders of
Afghanistan are worried about
the spillover of the renewed
turbulence into their territories.

That is not all; Russia and China may not be unhappy to see Washington beat a retreat from Afghanistan; both have launched their own diplomatic initiatives to secure their interests in the region.

Moscow has emphasised the importance of working with the Taleban to prevent the spread of ISIS into the region and is cosying up to Pakistan as part of its

repositioning in South Asia.
But it is China, with its deep pockets and huge political influence in Pakistan, that has the potential to be a powerful new player in Afghanistan. However, its experience in the region is quite limited and, for now, it is keeping a relatively low profile.

The jockeying among multiple external stakeholders will likely intensify should Afghanistan's political coherence and territorial integrity break down after the Americans leave.

The Taleban might well prevail in Afghanistan after the American forces leave. But its victory will be short-lived. The deeply sectarian Taleban, which has shown no change in its hostile attitude towards multiple ethnic and religious minorities in Afghanistan, will invite quick resistance from these groups that will be backed by external actors.

The bloodshed and chaos playing out in Yemen, Syria and Libya – civil wars along multiple axes and external intervention by many powers – could well be the future of Afghanistan; unless, of course, Mr Trump changes his mind and can come up with a better strategy to secure the nation. Don't hold your breath, though.

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• C. Raja Mohan is director of the Institute of South Asian Studies at National University of Singapore.

# **Field notes**



#### DISCRIMINATION

When it came to the British POWs who worked on the railway, their government helped recover their remains and laid them to rest in a cemetery that is well looked after, but they chose to ignore the civilian workers, many of whom were British subjects and worked alongside the POWs.

MR P. CHANDRASEKARAN, chairman of the Death Railway Interest Group, on how the Asian workers and British POWs were

#### Participants of a tour conducted by the Death Railway Interest Group on the famous Bridge on the River Kwai in Thailand last month. PHOTOS: DEATH RAILWAY INTEREST GROUP

# Death Railway's 'forgotten' labourers

About 300,000 labourers or 'romusha', including Malayan Tamils, worked on the wartime railway and some never returned home. Now, a Malaysia-based group plans to honour them with a memorial.



**Debarshi** Dasgupta

India Correspondent

NEW DELHI • The bodies were being dumped in the pit, one on top of the other. Mr Marimuthu Sabapathy, a worker who helped build the infamous Siam-Burma Railway during World War II for the Japanese, was among them. But he wasn't dead.

Presumed lifeless, Mr Sabapathy was thrown into what was a mass grave for labourers who toiled on the railway line. He could have wound up dead and untraced, but fate had something else in store for him. He was, fortunately, picked up and saved by other workers who were dumping the bodies after they saw his fingers move. The lucky survivor died in September last year at the age of 94 in Rawang, Malaysia.

Another worker, Mr S. Manikam, was abandoned by the Japanese to die because he was too ill to work. Rescued by the local Thais, he was nursed back to health. The man returned several years later to his family in Johor in what was then British Malaya. They had by then finished his funeral rites, having

heard from others that he had died. Both men were Malaysian Tamils. While the plight of Allied prisoners of war (POWs) who worked on the Death Railway, as it is called, is well-known - boosted by the epic movie The Bridge On The River Kwai directed by Briton David Lean - what has been overlooked is the huge numbers of Asians, including women and children, who were press ganged into working alongside the Allied POWs.

Indeed, the story of the

- and what they endured – has largely been effaced. The Death Railway Interest Group (Drig), a Malaysia-based collective representing survivors and descendants of these workers, says an estimated 100,000 Malaysian Tamils, together with around 50,000 people of other Asian ethnicities, died

building the railway. Other accounts have placed the workers' death toll at around 90,000. They perished enduring conditions and abuse much worse than the better educated and organised Caucasian POWs, who numbered around 60,000.

Drig hopes to change this amnesic view of history. With the railway's 75th anniversary having been marked last October, the group is now campaigning to resurrect the story of these workers - referred to as romusha (the Japanese word for labourer) – that has so far been consigned to the footnotes of history.

Its members want a memorial to be constructed for the Asian workers at a site along the railway line in Thailand, where they believe many of the mass graves lie. We are trying to secure recognition for these workers whose very existence has been overlooked by history," says Drig chairman P. Chandrasekaran, whose father was an assistant on the Malayan locomotives that used this railway during the war.

It also organised three visits last ear for some romusha descendants to the region in Thailand where the railway line exists, the last just last month, to galvanise public opinion.

It has approached the Malaysian government for support, but has yet to get a "positive response". We also approached the Indian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, which suggested we first better document this episode, possibly in the form of a book that can help rally public opinion," Mr Chandrasekaran tells The Straits 200,000-300,000 Asian labourers : Times, adding that it will approach





**MYANMAR THAILAND** Thanbyuzayat **SINGAPORE THAILAND** Bridge on the River Kwai Pladuk STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

the Japanese government next. He argues that all the countries touched by this episode should get together to help the Asian workers secure some closure. "When it came to the British POWs who worked on the railway, their government helped recover their remains and laid them to rest in a cemetery that is well looked after, but they chose to ignore the civilian workers, many of whom were British subjects and worked alongside the POWs,"

connection, too: He says there could be survivors in Singapore, which was then part of British majority of the traumatised families returned.

He uses the term "survivors" to include children who were forced to accompany their families working on the railway.

# SYMBOL OF CRUELTY

The romusha were drawn from across Asia and included Burmese, Karen, Thai, Malay, Tamil (both Indian and Sri Lankan), Chinese, Javanese and Indochinese communities.

The 415km railway they slogged to build was intended to bring the Japanese vital civil and military supplies, bypassing sea routes that had become vulnerable after Japan's navy suffered heavy losses in the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway in May and June 1942.

A strategic asset for the advancing Japanese juggernaut that made it as far as the eastern flank of British India, the railway quickly became a symbol of their cruelty.

As the workers shored up the might of the Japanese empire in this outpost, they also fell en masse to hunger, diseases such as cholera and dysentery, and to snake bites in the forests.

The romusha were used as manual labour for building bridges and embankments, among other tasks. They worked long hours and had poor access to food. Housing conditions in their camps, separate from the Allied POWs, were appalling - they have been described as extremely crowded and unsanitary. These conditions led to high rates of illness and death.

Working on this subject since 2012, Drig's representatives have documented narratives from survivors and their descendants. Much of what they have heard is clearly horrific, such as the two stories at the start of this piece.

**HOW THE TAMILS WERE INVOLVED** At first, Tamils from British Malaya went to work on the railway

willingly, with the Japanese

Above: Nong Pladuk station, the starting point of the Siam-Burma "Death" Railway on the Thai side.

Left: Among those who took part in the Death Railway Interest Group tour were Mr Francis Tang (extreme left), whose father worked on the line, and Mr Kandasamy (fourth from left) who worked as a 10-year-old on the Burmese side of the railway.

promising they would be paid as much as three times what they were earning locally. The allure of better pay enticed the Indian-origin plantation labourers, many of whom were brought in during the British Raj to work there.

Many had found themselves out of work as their British employers fled the rapidly advancing Japanese. But as the money promised to families failed to materialise, and the news spread of deaths of the initial recruits as well as of the horrible working conditions, the locals grew reluctant to enlist for the construction of this railway.

This made the Japanese adopt more coercive, even desperate, measures. The Japanese controlled much of South-east Asia by 1942, including present-day Malaysia and Singapore. A project estimated to take five years to complete was done in 15 months due to the brutal efficiency of the Japanese.

Dr R. Kurinjivendan, professor and head of the Department of Tamil Studies in Foreign Countries at Tamil University in Thanjavur, produced a documentary on this in 2014, titled Siam-Burma Death Railway. He says it was a major tragedy that affected "around two to three members" from each Malayan Tamil family.

"In at least one instance, the Japanese used the Tamils' love for cinema to draw them to a theatre in Kuala Lumpur and then round up the men at gunpoint from the hall," he tells The Straits Times.

Dr Kurinjivendan also met a man, Mr Marappan, who told him the Japanese forces cut down the coconut tree he had climbed up when he refused to come down. Aged around 16 then, he managed to escape and live to tell the story.

A man who tried escaping from the camps was hit on his neck with a gun by a Japanese soldier, causing him to fall on the floor and convulse o death.

"His tongue came out of his mouth, hanging wildly. Only then I realised that human tongues could be that long," says a survivor, Mr Maruthaviran, in an excerpt of the documentary which is available on YouTube.

While the workers were paid in Japanese currency at the site, Dr Kurinjivendan says when they returned home after working on the railway line for around 15 months, the currency had been declared invalid. "These workers and their families received no compensation, or an apology. A memorial to the workers will certainly bring some justice and recognition."

#### A GAP IN HISTORY

Indeed, these Asian victims are scarcely commemorated, unlike the Allied POWs whose travails are recognised through a meticulously tended cemetery in Kanchanaburi in Thailand, feted on screen and recorded in many memoirs.

The role of the Asian workers, although almost all but obliterated from public memory, does return to the spotlight once in a while, such as in the 1990s when their remains were excavated from mass graves along this historic railway.

Squadron Leader (Retired) Rana Chhina, a military historian based in Delhi, suggests that the ignorance surrounding this episode

could be because of racial attitudes. "Had Europeans been rounded up similarly and made to work on the Death Railway, one would have heard about it a hundred times over," he says. "But because (the Asian workers) were coloured people, their history becomes not worth recording."

A less-known memorial set up by the Japanese army, including plaques that acknowledge the role of the workers, exists in Kanchanaburi. "But this is on private property managed by a Japanese association. We cannot treat this as a memorial for us. We want a memorial at the site where the workers worked and sacrificed their lives," says Mr Chandrasekaran.

As the group tries to secure support from various governments for their proposed memorial, Squadron Leader (Retired) Chhina adds that one must be conscious of the political aspect to the story, "as memorialisation is not just linked to memory and remembrance"

"Today, if I say I want to build a memorial to the Germans who died fighting around Stalingrad, nobody is going to buy it," he points out.

"There is a stronger chance of success if one can substantiate that they died as a result of neglect, overwork and poor conditions. If yes, then there is a case for memorialisation because it fits into the larger war narrative," he adds.

Drig plans to intensify its efforts this year with an international conference, well aware that it is running out of time. Dwindling numbers of survivors, most in their late 80s and early 90s, are the only remaining witnesses. Of the 10 survivors the group managed to establish contact with, only four are

The group is not raising funds for a memorial – at least not yet – but is interested to hear from survivors or their families via e-mail at: deathrailwayinterestgroup@

Says Mr Chandrasekaran: "We would like to see a memorial erected while the survivors are still around. Otherwise, it would be meaningless."

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Mr Chandrasekaran says.

There is likely to be a local Malaya, and in India, where a

# Germany's growing China challenge

## Berlin is walking a thin line between its strongest ally and biggest trading partner

#### **Anna Sauerbrey**

BERLIN • As the trade impasse between the United States and China grinds on, the rest of the world is reduced to being anxious bystanders – and nowhere are leaders more anxious than here in Germany. Over the past decade, Germany, the largest economy in Europe but still a middle power by global standards, has steadily adapted itself to the realities of

Chinese economic dominance. Germany has welcomed Chinese investment, and encouraged its companies to play by Beijing's rules to get access to its markets. At the same time, Germany has remained a stalwart member of the Western political and security alliance.

The geopolitical tumult of the last six months has led to a strategic awakening among Germany's leaders of the risks involved in trying to play both sides.

Whether Germany has the capacity to rise to those challenges may be the biggest question facing the country over the next several years. Until now, trade has defined Germany's foreign

policy on China, its single most important trading partner. It has sought close relations with China, setting up regular bilateral government consultations.

Like many in the West, Germans believed that growth would push China in a more economically and politically liberal direction. But over the past few years, these hopes have been shattered by the increasingly nationalist, expansionist and statist politics of President Xi Jinping. According to analysts like Dr

Mikko Huotari, the deputy director of the Berlin-based Mercator Institute for China Studies, Chancellor Angela Merkel has long held a sceptical view of China's political development. But it was not until about two years ago that the rest of the government came around to her way of thinking, paving the way for the adoption of a new, multifaceted

China strategy. This new approach begins with the premise that China is not just expanding its economy, but also seeking to impose a global agenda that not only promotes its interests but also chips away at the rules-based, multinational order

established after World War II. In response, Germany needs to be more active, perhaps even combative, in defending its interests. But it was not until the last several months that the government began to change its public stance, becoming bolder in its talk of a "new great power struggle".

In a speech in November, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas argued that Europe had "the most of all to lose" from growing US-China tensions and US-Russia tensions.

In a recent, unusually outspoken paper, the Federation of German Industries, one of the country's most powerful business associations, declared that there was "system competition" between China and Germany – in other words, that trade between the two countries

had become a zero-sum battle. While German industry should continue to "take advantage of the opportunities offered by economic exchange with China", the federation said, the "challenges posed by China cannot be ignored".

And in December, Germany's political leaders agreed to lower the threshold at which foreign investment in security-related industries - including energy suppliers, railways and digital infrastructure – prompts government intervention, a step clearly aimed at China. This policy

was already in place in practice; last year, the German state bank KfW bought a 20 per cent share of 50Hertz, a power distributing company, to block a bid by the State Grid Corporation of China.

The Ministries of Finance and Economy cited security as the reason for the unusual move. But is all this enough?

Policymakers and diplomats refrain from speaking of a paradigm shift in Germany's China politics. "We have carefully adjusted our policy," said Minister of State at the Foreign Office Niels Annen.

Indeed, unlike Germany's foreign policy on Russia, the country's relations with China are under less vigorous and ideological public scrutiny. Russia is a passionately divisive topic; most Germans could care less about China. And diplomats probably like it that way.

When it comes to China, Germany has to walk a very thin line in a rapidly changing international environment.

The trans-Atlantic relationship has been rattled since Mr Donald Trump took office; Germany suddenly finds itself agreeing with China more on certain issues, like climate change, than with the United States, its longtime ally.

As a consequence, German diplomats have to play a tricky game: Partnering an ideological INCREASING PRESSURE

China may be content as long as Germany doesn't take sides with the United States. But the United States is expecting us to clearly position ourselves. We are in the middle of the game already - and the pressure is going to increase.

DR MIKKO HUOTARI, deputy director of

adversary against its close ally on some issues, while sticking with that suddenly difficult ally against its most important trading partner on others. And in both cases, it has to stand by its commitment to the rules-based international order when neither of those partners holds the same level of commitment, at least at the

moment. How much longer can Germany continue to walk this line while staying committed to the old trans-Atlantic relationship remains to be seen. Dr Huotari of the Mercator

Institute expects Germany to be put

on the spot sooner or later. "China

may be content as long as Germany

doesn't take sides with the United

States is expecting us to clearly position ourselves. We are in the middle of the game already - and the pressure is going to increase." Germany's best option seems to

States," he said. "But the United

be finding safety in numbers by uniting its European allies, not least because part of China's geopolitical strategy is to divide Europe. Six years ago, it established the 16+1 framework, an initiative to engage 16 Central and Eastern European countries, 11 of which are members of the European Union, in closer relations to influence European policies in its favour.

Lately, however, several of those countries have become disenchanted. In some, China is having trouble keeping up with its investment promises. Others, like Poland, face increasing pressure from Washington to loosen ties with Beijing. This could be Germany's opening, but it has to play it exactly right - and uniting Western, Central and Eastern Europe is no easy task.

It is the eternal quandary of German foreign policy: Germany can't go it alone, but Europe is too divided and too slow to step up. NYTIMES

 Anna Sauerbrey is an editor and writer at the German daily newspaper Der Tagesspiegel.



Alibaba's co-founder and executive chairman Jack Ma plans to create an Electronic World Trade Platform which will facilitate online trade across borders. He says "future laws should not be driven only by governments; they should be driven by private sector and all stakeholders together". PHOTO: REUTERS

# Beware tech firms playing government

# Marietje Schaake

Last April, when 34 technology companies announced their membership of a Cyber-security Tech Accord, it was portrayed as proof that the private sector was, at long last, taking responsibility for protecting civilians online something governments had conspicuously failed to do.

Since then, the ranks of signatories to the self-imposed cyber-security standards have more than doubled.

Alibaba Group Holding, the Chinese tech giant, is not among them, but its co-founder and executive chairman Jack Ma certainly agrees that companies should rush in where governments have so far feared to tread.

To wit, his plan to create an Electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP), which will facilitate online trade across borders.

"Innovation always develops much faster and I think future laws should not be driven only by governments; they should be driven by private sector and all stakeholders together," Mr Ma said.

Another example of this is the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, backed by Microsoft, Alphabet's Google and Samsung Electronics – and announced by French President Emmanuel Macron last year – which underlines the companies' ambitions to draft standards in the fight against election tampering, compromised electronic

components and software hacks.

I am all in favour of companies acting responsibly: For too long, they have been negligent about protecting the data of their users and customers. But when the most powerful tech firms take on the responsibility of global rule-making and cross-border governance, to set and enforce standards, that is deeply problematic for democracy and the rule of law.

There is no question that governments have been laggards in setting norms and rules online take that from a politician who has been involved in some of these cumbersome efforts.

While Microsoft has been pushing for a Digital Geneva Convention, intergovernmental discussions on norms of behaviour in cyberspace during peacetime are stalled at the United Nations.

Even as Mr Ma's eWTP initiative takes off, negotiations between states on e-commerce at the World Trade Organisation are going nowhere fast. Indeed, governments and courts have offloaded some of their responsibilities on to tech companies. For instance, the European Court of Justice has ruled for companies to remove websites from search results in respecting

"the right to be forgotten". Similarly, in the NetzDG law in Germany, tech companies must take hate speech, fake news and illegal content offline within 24 hours. Both cases underline how much impact technology firms already have on the content : people see, or don't see online.

But by leaving the policing to the companies, rather than to regulators and governments, there's a great risk that the public interest will be captured by the private sector, and that norms will be made without transparency, accountability or the mandate of the people

There are plenty of reasons to worry about the privatisation of governance. If we have learnt anything from the scandal after scandal over Facebook's handling of user data, it is that the private sector's noble intentions to regulate the Internet should be met with scepticism. Without adequate public oversight of algorithms, and with recurring bad practices, tech platforms cannot - should not - be trusted.

What are we going to do about it? In an era when all forms of multilateralism are being challenged, it is harder than ever to forge a consensus among governments on issues pertaining to cyberspace. It is fiendishly

There are plenty of reasons to worry about the privatisation of governance. If we have learned anything from the scandal after scandal over Facebook's handling of user data, it is that the private sector's noble intentions to regulate the Internet should be met with scepticism. Without adequate public oversight of algorithms, and with recurring bad practices, tech platforms cannot should not - be trusted.

complicated to reach across jurisdictions, from where citizens live to where tech companies are run. That is why it took years for the European Union to adopt the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, which governs how data collectors gather and use information.

There is no wishing away of the complications, no realistic way to accelerate the process of multilateral rule-making in the short term. We can hope that governments will become more ambitious as they witness companies stepping into the breach.

In the meantime, we must not let private initiatives go unquestioned, or evolve from de facto norms to de jure laws. At best, these should be regarded as temporary constructs while we keep working to build powerful, enforceable rules. We must assess each private-sector initiative closely, and on its merits, rather than take it at face value as well-intended.

As with every governance initiative, the values at its core, and mechanisms of consent, oversight and accountability, determine the practical working. We must insist that developing norms include multiple stakeholders - such as civil society representatives, technology experts and government representatives from different parts of the world.

This will be equally important for monitoring their implementation. And we must ensure that the norms are anchored in principles such as respect for universal human rights and fair competition. If companies want to play government, even temporarily, they must expect to be held to account as governments are. BLOOMBERG

 Marietje Schaake is a Member of the European Parliament from : the Netherlands

# Sweden's new govt part of a scary trend in Europe

## **Leonid Bershidsky**

Four months after its election, Sweden is finally poised to get a

Mr Stefan Lofven is almost certain to remain prime minister, even though his party and its allies failed to win enough votes to be able to govern.

The protracted talks - and a similarly tortuous set of negotiations in Latvia - highlight an awkward reality in Europe: increasingly, ruling coalitions do not stand for anything that voters can easily identify with. The deal allowing Mr Lofven to keep power will shake up a system of political alignments that has existed in Sweden since 2004, when the country's centre-right parties formed the so-called Alliance to counteract the powerful centre-left.

Mr Lofven, a Social Democrat, has persuaded two Alliance parties, the Centre Party and the Liberals, to back his coalition with the Greens.

The parliamentary maths is precarious: the coalition will rely on the support of the Left Party, the former Communists who backed Mr Lofven's previous government but initially baulked at the new arrangement because it didn't look leftist enough for them.

Mr Lofven will govern on the basis of a 16-page document that looks like an untidy compilation of socialist, environmentalist and centre-right ideas rather than a detailed and thought-out coalition manifesto. It aims to please everyone with tax cuts, more attention to climate change, better social assistance programmes, and a more pragmatic approach to asylum and integration.

The Left can be excused for being unable to make head or tail of the new government's real direction. So too can Swedish voters. In a recent poll, most of them considered the deal "quite bad" or "very bad". Only 11 per cent called it "very good".

There was one overarching reason for the parties to rally reluctantly behind Mr Lofven. Nobody wanted to join with the political force that made the biggest gains in the September election: the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats.

In the country's system of proportional representation it is hard to get around a populist party with 17.5 per cent of the vote. Mr Lofven, whose Social Democrats commanded the biggest share of the vote at 31.1 per cent, has proved that is doable.

Similarly, Latvia is about to embark on a political arrangement that works mathematically but

perhaps not ideologically. Like Sweden, it is going through the longest government-formation process in its history. Mr Krisjanis Karins, the leader of the smallest party in Parliament and the biggest loser of the 2018 election, is set to become the new prime minister. He is expected to present the final deal cementing his five-party governing coalition in the next few days.

The alliance of centre-right, national-conservative and populist parties has a rather self-contradictory manifesto that combines measures to reduce income inequality with

declarations of financial prudence. The biggest reason the five are coming together is to keep out of power the country's biggest party-Harmony, a centre-left group historically backed by Latvia's large Russian-speaking minority.

The Netherlands and Germany have also experienced their longest government-formation periods ever, after their most recent elections. Their ruling coalitions are somewhat more cohesive politically, but it's still hard for the average voter to understand what they stand for. It's easier to see what they stand against: allowing populist-nationalist parties to come anywhere close to participating in government.

All these arrangements are essentially technocratic - and they favour the best negotiator. Mr Lofven, Mr Karins, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are all known for their consummate backroom skills.

Keeping the precarious parliamentary maths working constantly keeps these negotiator-leaders in shape. This makes for minimalist government. Big policy shifts, bold moves and audacious ideas are out.

Countries with relatively strong institutions – even a young democracy like Latvia – can survive for some time with this kind of government. The problem is that voters will start wondering whether they are being asked anything meaningful at

the ballot box. The expected protest vote in this year's elections to the European Parliament will be another sign that this phase of mathematically possible but politically colourless coalitions built around keeping someone out of power will come at a price to the political establishment. Minimising that cost in the medium term may be beyond the powers of even the best negotiators. Centrists don't have much time to re-learn how to win elections rather than prevail in back-room

manoeuvring.BLOOMBERG

TheViewFromAsia

# Shadow boxing with power elites from the past

Asia News Network writers look at the complications that arise when political players out of power return to the spotlight. Here are excerpts.

# Return of the Umno misfits

Joceline Tan The Star, Malaysia

There has been a storm of opinions in the mobile chat groups of Umno members regarding news that the six MPs who quit the party will be allowed back in.

The opinions range from outright disgust and opposition to a more forgiving acceptance of the six, whose rebellion last month was the catalyst to the Umno president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi taking leave of absence.

News claiming that the six MPs would be rejoining Umno was met with harsh remarks such as sampah, or garbage, and traitors in those chat groups.

Those who oppose their readmission declared that there would be no forgiveness for their betrayal, with one commentator saying that "the general who runs away from the battlefield deserves to face the firing squad".

However, Kelantan opposition chief Alwi Che Ahmad took a different stand and is advocating a second chance for the rebels.

Mr Alwi said: "I know that our members are still very angry with them. What they did was wrong but if people want to come back, we should accept because it is not easy to get six parliamentary seats.

"Their aim was not to join Bersatu. They are out to stop Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from becoming prime minister and they wanted Zahid to step down."

But he said the group cannot come back to their previous party posts in the divisions or supreme council, and will have to start as ordinary members.

The avalanche of opinions has not stopped even though Datuk Seri Ikmal Hisham Abdul Aziz, one of the six, has denied outright that he is rejoining Umno. Sources close to the six said none of them have applied to return to Umno. As of now, they remain as independent MPs.

But it is understood that something is brewing behind the scenes to help pave their way back to Umno. Well-placed sources claim that Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein could be playing a key role in reconnecting the group with Umno.

Mr Alwi said the Umno grassroots had not followed the leaders who left the party. "It shows that nowadays, people do not respect those who jump from one side to the other," he said.

# Arroyo versus Duterte

Joel Ruiz Butuyan Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Philippines

There's a virtual chess match going on between two opposing camps in the Philippine



According to The Nation's Tulsathit Taptim, Thailand's former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra's current passport controversy reflects what must have become the clan's expertise in using "borderline" documents to do big things. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

government. This is the feeling one gets when reading the verbal skirmishes between the two warring factions of the ruling administration.

One camp is led by President Rodrigo Duterte, while the other is headed by former president and current Speaker Gloria Arroyo.

The Arroyo knights include House Majority Leader Rolando Andaya Jr and Minority Leader Danilo Suarez, while their pawns include the members of the House committee on rules who conducted a hearing in Naga City to skewer and fry targeted officials of the Duterte camp.

The Duterte rooks and bishops include Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, and their pawns include the other Cabinet secretaries and allied senators who have expressed support for the embattled members of the Duterte faction.

The clashes are happening largely among the minions of Mr Duterte and Ms Arroyo.

The hostilities began when Ms Arroyo, Mr Andaya and their favoured allies were accused of huge budget insertions amounting to billions of pesos that they allegedly allotted for their congressional districts. In particular, Ms Arroyo was accused of favouring her district with 2.4 billion pesos (\$\$61.9 million) in pork barrel funds, while Mr Andaya's district was lavished with 1.9 billion pesos.

There were no convincing denials made by the Arroyo camp. Instead, they countered with their own charges of anomalies against the Duterte camp.

In particular, Mr Andaya, has fired a barrage of charges against Mr Diokno, accusing the him of masterminding the insertion of 75 billion pesos in the 2019 budget for public infrastructure.

Mr Duterte and Ms Arroyo have started to join the fracas. Ms Arroyo has called on the Duterte administration to produce "tangible results" this year to ease poverty. Mr Duterte countered that his administration has "achieved more" compared with the combined terms of Ms Arroyo and Mr Benigno Aquino.

The whole sordid spectacle appears as a war between pots and kettles. It is during lucid intervals like this that the politicians are

being honest about one another.
Bring out the beer and let's enjoy
watching this truth-telling episode
among the leaders.

# Shinawatra shadows loom

Tulsathit Taptim The Nation, Thailand

Even before former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra entered politics, his family was involved in dubious, if not totally illegal, business documentation. In fact, it was something in his pre-Thai Rak Thai past, the massive transfers of shares from his inner circles to people who were not supposed to have them, that kick-started Thailand's ongoing and detrimental national divide.

The trend of the Shinawatras using suspicious documents has continued. His younger sister Yingluck Shinawatra's current passport controversy reflects what must have become the clan's expertise in using "borderline"

documents to do big things.

However, whether it's really
"borderline" is open to debate
in the latest case, because if the
words of a senior Cambodian
government official are to be
believed, the former Thai prime
minister may have used a fake
Cambodian passport to complete

an important business registration. Even if the passport was genuine, legal trouble could still plague her

mega-money business dealings.
The Cambodian immigration
official was spot on in saying that
everyone knows she is a Thai,
which means that accepting her
"Cambodian passport" is
tantamount to accepting her

"political persecution" claims. That's a big deal, with potentially great legal, diplomatic and business repercussions.

Thailand's upcoming election will have great significance in the international context. If one side triumphs, the Shinawatras can be travelling with "better" documents. If the other side wins, restrictions could increase and diplomatic headaches could multiply.

Whoever wins, chances are things will continue to be complicated.

Thai political power is like Jerusalem, as sworn enemies have been taking turns in controlling it. You can't continue betting on one side. Just be on guard and have a cool head when the Shinawatras come knocking.

• The View From Asia is a compilation of articles from The Straits Times' media partner Asia News Network, a grouping of 23 news organisations.

# What Brexit shares with the calamitous partition of British India

# Pankaj Mishra

Describing Britain's calamitous exit from its Indian empire in 1947, the novelist Paul Scott wrote that in India, the British "came to the end of themselves as they were" – that is, to the end of their exalted idea about themselves.

Scott was among those shocked by how hastily and ruthlessly the British, who had ruled India for more than a century, condemned it to fragmentation and anarchy; how Louis Mountbatten came to preside, as the last British viceroy of India, over the destiny of some 400 million people.

Britain's rupture with the European Union is proving to be another act of moral dereliction by the country's rulers. The Brexiters, pursuing a fantasy of imperial-era strength and self-sufficiency, have repeatedly revealed their hubris, mulishness and ineptitude over the past two years.

Though originally a "remainer", Prime Minister Theresa May has matched their arrogant obduracy, imposing a patently unworkable timetable of two years on Brexit and laying down red lines that undermined negotiations with Brussels and doomed her deal to resoundingly bipartisan rejection this week in Parliament.

Such a pattern of destructive behaviour by the British elite flabbergasts many people today. But it was already manifest seven decades ago during Britain's rash

Mountbatten, derided as "Master of Disaster" in British naval circles, was a representative member of a small group of upper- and middle-class British men from which the imperial masters of Asia and Africa were recruited.

Abysmally equipped for their immense responsibilities, they were nevertheless allowed by Britain's brute imperial power to blunder through the world – a "world of whose richness and subtlety", as E.M. Forster wrote in Notes On The English Character, they could "have no conception".

Forster blamed Britain's political fiascos on its privately educated men, callow beneficiaries of the country's elitist public school system. These eternal schoolboys whose "weight is out of all proportion" to their numbers are certainly over-represented among Tories. They have today plunged Britain into its worst crisis.

From former prime minister David Cameron, who recklessly gambled his country's future on a referendum in order to isolate some whingers in his Conservative Party, to the opportunistic Boris Johnson, who jumped on the Brexit bandwagon to secure the prime ministerial chair once warmed by his role model Winston Churchill, and the top-hatted, theatrically retro Jacob Rees-Mogg, whose fund management company has set up an office within the EU even as he vehemently scorns it, the British political class has offered to the world an astounding spectacle of mendacious,

intellectually limited hustlers.
Even a columnist for The
Economist, an organ of the British
elite, now professes dismay over
"Oxford chums" who coast through
life on "bluff rather than expertise".

"Britain," the magazine lamented, "is governed by a self-involved clique that rewards group membership above competence and self-confidence above expertise." In Brexit, the British "chumocracy", the column declared, "has finally met its Waterloo."



A pro-Brexit demonstrator in London. As a no-deal Brexit looms, the writer says, Britons are set to suffer the exit wounds once inflicted by their country's chumocrats on millions of Asians and Africans. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

It is actually more accurate, for those invoking British history, to say that partition – the British empire's ruinous exit strategy – has come home.

In a grotesque irony, borders imposed in 1921 on Ireland, England's first colony, have proved to be the biggest stumbling block for the English Brexiters chasing imperial virility. Moreover, Britain itself faces the prospect of partition if Brexit, a primarily English demand, is achieved and Scottish nationalists renew their call for independence. It is a measure of English Brexiters' political acumen that they were initially oblivious to the volatile Irish question and

contemptuous of the Scottish one. Ireland was cynically partitioned to ensure that Protestant settlers outnumber native Catholics in one part of the country. The division provoked decades of violence and consumed thousands of lives. It was partly healed in 1998, when a peace agreement removed the need for security and Customs checks along the British-imposed partition line. The re-imposition of a Customs and immigration regime along Britain's only land border with the EU was always likely to be resisted with violence. But the Brexiters, awakening late to this ominous possibility, have tried to deny it. A leaked recording reveals Mr Johnson scorning concerns about the border as "pure millennium bug stuff".

Politicians and journalists in Ireland are understandably aghast at the aggressive ignorance of English Brexiters. Business people everywhere are outraged by their cavalier disregard for the economic consequences of new borders.

But none of this would surprise anyone who knows of the unconscionable breeziness with which the British ruling class first drew lines through Asia and Africa and then doomed the people living across them to endless suffering.

The malign incompetence of the Brexiters was precisely prefigured during Britain's exit from India in 1947, most strikingly in the lack of orderly preparation for it.

The British government had announced that India would have independence by June 1948. In the first week of June 1947, however, Mountbatten suddenly proclaimed that the transfer of power would happen on Aug 15, 1947 – a "ludicrously early date", as he himself blurted out.

In July, British lawyer Cyril
Radcliffe was entrusted with the
task of drawing new boundaries of
a country he had never previously
visited. Given only around five
weeks to invent the political
geography of an India flanked by
an eastern and a western wing
called Pakistan, he failed to visit
any villages, communities, rivers
or forests along the border he
planned to demarcate.

Dividing agricultural hinterlands from port cities, and abruptly reducing Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs on either side of the new border to a religious minority, he delivered a plan for partition that effectively sentenced millions to death or desolation while bringing him the highest-ranked knighthood. Up to one million people died, countless women were abducted and raped, and the world's largest refugee population was created during the population transfers across his border – an extensive carnage that exceeds all apocalyptic scenarios of Brexit. Just a few months after the

botched partition, India and

Pakistan were fighting a war over the disputed territory of Kashmir. None of the concerned parties had pushed for a hasty British exit. As the historian Alex von Tunzelmann points out, "the rush was Mountbatten's, and his alone".

Mountbatten was actually less pigheaded than Churchill, whose invocation stiffens the spines of many Brexiters today.
Churchill, a fanatical imperialist, worked harder than any British politician to thwart Indian independence. His own secretary of state for India claimed that his boss knew "as much of the Indian problem as George III did of the American colonies".

The many crimes of the empire's bumptious adventurers were enabled by Britain's great geopolitical power and then obscured by its cultural prestige. This is why images cherished by the British elite of itself as valiant, wise and benevolent could survive, until recently, much damning historical evidence about these masters of disaster from Cyprus to Malaysia, Palestine to South Africa.

As partition comes home, threatening bloodshed in Ireland and secession in Scotland, and an unimaginable chaos of no-deal Brexit looms, ordinary British people stand to suffer from the untreatable exit wounds once inflicted by Britain's bumbling chumocrats on millions of Asians and Africans.

More ugly historical ironies may yet waylay Britain on its treacherous road to Brexit. But it is safe to say that a long-cossetted British ruling class has finally come to the end of itself as it was. NYTIMES

 Pankaj Mishra is the author, most recently, of Age Of Anger: A History Of The Present.

# BIGPICTURE





PHOTO: REUTERS

# Putting some bite into conservation

This Sumatran orang utan which was rescued from a plantation in South Aceh, Indonesia, received a thorough examination from a veterinarian on Monday.

Orang utans can become trapped in isolated pockets of forest with insufficient food due to the clearing of surrounding

forests for farmland. After being rescued and given a clean bill of health, they are released back into the wild in protected areas of forest.

Sumatran orang utans are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with an

estimated population of less than 15,000.

Deforestation, especially due to the rapid growth of oil palm plantations, has been blamed for the destruction of the orang utan's habitat. Poachers also target young orang utans, capturing them to be sold as pets, while killing adults.





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Map not drawn to scale. All distances and travelling times are approximates only and taken from Fourth Avenue Residences to respective destinations.

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# Women earn 9% less than men

# Experts say career breaks to look after family, less training among reasons for gender pay gap

Joanna Seow **Manpower Correspondent** 

Despite years of talk about gender equality, a woman working in Singapore still earns less than a man, in general. For some occupations, the pay gap at the median wage was a whopping 35 to 50 per cent in June 2017, based on the latest official data from the Ministry of Manpower (MOM).

Overall, the median monthly salary of a woman in full-time work was 9 per cent, or \$410, less than a man in full-time work.

"Although fair employment guidelines state that people should be paid fairly regardless of race, gender or age, in reality there's still some path to walk," said Singapore Human Resources Institute president Erman Tan.

MOM last month published calculations of the difference in median wages across about 130 more common occupations. The high-paying jobs with the largest pay gap were specialist medical practitioners where women earned 49.7 per cent less than men at the median wage, policy and planning manager (42.1 per cent), and managing director or chief executive (36 per cent).

Experts told The Straits Times that this is likely due to more women taking a career break to look after their families, which results in them having less training and work experience. The longer the period spent away from work, the harder it is for women to negotiate for a better position or higher pay, said Randstad Singapore managing director Jaya Dass.

Mercer Singapore partner Godelieve van Dooren said some organisations still pay men who join after National Service higher starting wages, but do not pay women higher salaries when they come back from career breaks to take care of children; this may instead hurt

women further in their career. Ms Corinna Lim, executive director of the Association of Women for Action and Research, noted that a

greater share of men take time out of work to attend training compared to women. "If women drop out of the workforce prematurely or do not attend as much training as men because of household responsibilities, there will be more male medical specialists and managing directors, and they are likely to earn more money," she said.

She added that the gender gap in mean pay is actually much larger, probably because there are more men with high pay and more women with low pay. There are close to 1.5 times more men than women who earn more than \$12,000 a month.

Job segregation, where women are less represented in certain roles also has an impact on pay. Ms Dass said that as more women take up these positions, she expects the pay gap to close. At the same time, there are also some jobs where women earn more than men at the median. These include secretary (29.1 per cent gap), clerical supervisor (14.8 per cent) and housekeeper and related worker (12.8 per cent).

Ms K. Thanaletchimi, who heads the National Trades Union Congress Women's Committee, said women may have more of the specific traits that are valued in these occupations. But this job segregation leads to average wages tending to be lower in feminised occupations.

For firms that want to correct the pay gap, experts say the key is to regularly take stock of pay and compensate employees based on performance and the role they fulfil. "They need to undertake a systematic analysis of their human resources practices and data especially around hiring, talent development, and compensation and benefits to identify biases," said Adecco Singapore country manager Mark Hall.

Mercer's Ms van Dooren said some firms avoid asking candidates for previous salaries to reset any differences, and decide pay based on experience and the size of the role.

More supportive flexible work arrangements could also go some way to minimise career disruptions for

# Wage inequality

5 JOBS WITH BIGGEST PAY GAP,

In Singapore, women at work are typically paid less than men. For instance, the median pay of female medical specialists is 50 per cent less than that of men in those roles. But women in secretarial, housekeeping and nursing jobs tend to earn more than their male counterparts. Here are some jobs with the biggest pay gaps in June 2017, according to data on median wages released last month by the Manpower Ministry.

Overall pay gap 9%, or \$410 per month

49.7%

45.3%

Men earn more than women in 102 more common occupations

Women earn more than men in 28 more common occupations

Singapore ranks No. 10 among 36 OECD\* countries for gender pay gap

**5 JOBS WITH BIGGEST PAY GAP,** 

# **MEN EARNING MORE WOMEN EARNING MORE** Specialist medical Printing, binding and Secretary Clerical supervisor practitioner related machine operator 29.1% 14.8%

Policy and planning manager

48%

Supervisor/General foreman of

assemblers and quality checkers

38.6%

Computer

technician

0.1%\*\*

**5 JOBS WITH THE SMALLEST PAY GAP** 

Housekeeper and related worker 42.1% 12.8%

10.8%

Premises and facilities maintenance manager

F&B establishment

0.3%

Registered nurse and other

nursing professional

Civil engineering 0.4%

Tax accountant

12.7%

\*OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, a grouping of developed nations \*\*Only computer technicians have a higher median pay for men than for womer

Source: MOM STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

women, said Ms Thanaletchimi.

Quality checker

and tester

Mr Syafiq Yussoff, chief executive of logistics company Riverwood, said he has not looked at whether there is a pay gap among his staff, but no employee has raised it as an issue. About eight in 10 of his 100 or so staff are men in driver roles, although there are some female drivers too. As the majority of staff are paid per job or per parcel delivered, women can get

0.1%

paid more than men if they are more productive, he added. As for new hires, he said: "It's about what you can do, and your experience.

joseow@sph.com.sg

# Four local firms lauded for furthering women's equality

Four companies headquartered in Singapore have been recognised in a global index for their commitment to transparency in gender reporting and advancing gender equality.

Singtel, United Overseas Bank (UOB), City Developments (CDL) and DBS Group Holdings made it to the second edition of the Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index, which was released last

CDL and DBS were also in the inaugural index last year.

The 2019 list includes 230 firms headquartered across 36 countries and regions.

Ms Chua Sock Koong, group chief executive of Singtel, said women represent a third of staff and management across the group and on its board.

"(Diversity) allows us to tap... fresh perspectives and creativity which are critical to building a vibrant, successful and sustainable organisation," she said.

UOB deputy chairman and group chief executive Wee Ee Cheong also said that differences in qualities, capabilities and experiences among colleagues help them appreciate and connect with customers.

The index is based on a reporting framework Bloomberg created for companies to voluntarily disclose information on how they promote gender equality across four areas: company statistics, policies, community engagement and products and services. Those that score above a globally established threshold are included in the index.

Data collected for the latest index showed that, among the 230 companies, women were well represented in some areas.

They received 43 per cent of promotions, on a par with their composition of the total workforce at 42 per cent. But they made up only 7 per cent of chief executive or chair positions, and 26 per cent of senior management roles.

Joanna Seow

# Crucial to pick best person for the job, ensure parity of opportunity

Women CEOs are outnumbered. And official data show their median salary is more than a third less than that of their male counterparts.

But that has not fazed Ms Wong Su-Yen, chief executive of consultancy Bronze Phoenix, which she formed last year.

She says: "Remuneration is a function of many factors, including company size, industry and geographic scope. The large gap in this instance could be driven, for example, by a higher concentration of male chief executives in higher paying industries, or larger companies.'

Ms Wong, 48, speaks from both personal experience and human capital expertise. She is chairman of local listed firm Nera Telecommunications, sits on several boards and was chief executive of the Human Capital Leadership Institute.

Her education at all-girls schools has conditioned her to not see gender in relation to success, she said. "If someone was better, stronger or faster than you, it was always a girl. So you wouldn't lean on gender as a reason for not doing well.

She suggests that companies that want to improve parity in representation and pay should analyse whether there are particular junctures where people are leaving the company, as well as the gender pay gaps for individual jobs.

A pay gap could emerge if managers assess people based on factors inadvertently biased towards either gender, she said. A manager could, for example, be rating people on how well they communicate, but his idea of what good communciation is could favour men.

She shares a challenge she faced in communicating with clients from different cultures: "I had to pay more attention to context and not be held back by conventional wisdom about how I should be as an Asian, how I should be as a woman, in order to be effective."

She adds that in selecting a chief executive, most companies would look at candidates with experience. So women need to have enough opportunities in key roles earlier on in their careers, as she had. She became managing director for Singapore at consulting firm Mercer in 2005, at 34, and then for Asean a few

She stresses that improving gender diversity in leadership roles is about picking the best person for the job, while making sure that people are not overlooked due to certain biases - whether of gender, culture or age. "Most women don't want to be some place just because they're women," she said.

Joanna Seow



Ms Wong Su-Yen, chief executive of consultancy Bronze Phoenix, says gender bias could contribute to pay gap. ST PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG

# Sports retailer Decathlon opens 24-hour Kallang store

# **Nicole Chia**

A robot that takes inventory in a 24-hour store, an indoor patch of land with four different surfaces to test running shoes, and an in-store conveyor belt that transports products as soon as they are ordered on-

These features might have once been the stuff of imagination, but they now exist at French sporting goods retailer Decathlon's largest and most advanced Singapore store, which opens today.

Called the Decathlon Singapore Lab and located in Stadium Boulevard, the store is set to shake up the shopping experience in Singapore with its 5,000 sq m of retail space, which includes areas such as a hik-

Sport Singapore, where users can take a free health assessment.

to the store as well, and a conveyor belt manages online orders so that Decathlon can deliver its complete range of products in just two hours in Singapore. Shoppers can also order online and collect their items at their preferred store within two hours for free.

tive Yves Claude yesterday said the store has been named Decathlon Singapore Lab "because a lab is a disruptive and innovative place where we test new solutions".

"We have to give new reasons for customers to come back to our store," he said at the media launch.

The Decathlon Singapore Lab is the fourth Decathlon Experience store here. Its 4,000 sq m showroom in Joo Koon used to be the biggest. The company also has two click-and-collect stores.

In 2017, it welcomed two million visitors to its three stores at Viva Business Park in Bedok, City Square Mall and Fairprice Hub in Joo Koon.

Last May, during the signing of the memorandum of understanding between Decathlon and Sport Singapore, SportSG chief executive officer Lim Teck Yin had noted that the store would "provide a lot of vibrancy to the Kallang area".

He added: "We share a common purpose, which is to make sport accessible. They come with a good price point, high-quality products, (and) most importantly, they come with ideas on how to improve participation."

Decathlon Singapore Lab store leader Nathaniel Gregory said he hopes the Kallang outlet will change the perception of retail for both shoppers and staff.

"Retail used to be very monoto-



Bicycles for sale at the Decathlon Singapore Lab in Stadium Boulevard. The store, which opens today, has 5,000 sq m of retail space and an indoor zone with four different surfaces to test running shoes. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR

nous. Now because our customers are moving to more digital means of shopping, our jobs will also have to evolve," he said. "In the last three years my job was very brick-andmortar style. Tomorrow, I need to learn about SEO (search engine optimisation) and digital marketing."

Mr James Walton, sports business group leader for Deloitte Singapore and South-east Asia, believes Decathlon's growth here can encourage more participation in sport.

Noting that the Singapore market used to be dominated by the likes of Nike and Adidas, he said: "Decathlon is offering cheaper alternatives for people who are just getting into sport or not so concerned about the brand or having the latest sneaker, and just want something functional. They've filled a gap in the market - it's like shopping in Ikea, (where) you go there and you've got everything in one place.

"To have a retail supplier out there providing sport clothing and shoes at a price that allows so many of these people to access is definitely beneficial.

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LONDON • Major consumer companies including Unilever, Procter & Gamble (P&G) and Nestle are chasing consumers who want food and household goods delivered automatically, even though this kind of business has not always worked.

ing path with a gravel surface for the testing of products in-store. The store also hosts an Active Health Lab in partnership with

There are free-to-play areas next

Decathlon Singapore chief execu-

**Decathlon Singapore chief** executive Yves Claude yesterday said the store has been named Decathlon Singapore Lab "because a lab is a disruptive and innovative place where we test new solutions".

Challenger **Technologies** CEO Loo Leona Thye and chief marketing officer Loo Pei Fen at Musica Boutique, which has a soundproof room where listeners can compare products. ST PHOTO: KELVIN CHNO





# Challenger's new store tunes in to luxe market

# Musica Boutique in Ion features premium products such as sound systems, headphones

Seow Bei Yi **Business Correspondent** 

After beefing up its online presence in recent years, home-grown retailer Challenger Technologies, a household name for affordable IT products, has turned its focus back to brick-and-mortar stores.

In view of a growing appetite for higher-end products, Challenger has gone luxe with its newest outfit Musica Boutique in Ion Orchard, which was launched yesterday.

It is focusing on audio products with digital elements that can be hooked up to customers' phones, for example.

The 2,000 sq ft store is touted as a space with a soundproof room where listeners can compare premium brands in one location.

The move comes more than two years after Challenger shut its 53,000 sq ft flagship store in Funan DigitaLife Mall, when the mall closed for redevelopment. The revamped Funan mall is scheduled to reopen by June.

When it closed its megastore in 2016, the company decided to strengthen its online presence with its Hachi.tech marketplace instead of reopening the store.

The change in consumer buying behaviour, rise in e-commerce, manpower challenges and high rental costs contributed to the decision.

Challenger chief executive Loo Leong Thye estimates that less than 5 per cent of Challenger's revenue now flows through Hachi.tech, although the initial aim was to cross the 50 per cent mark from online sales within five years. He added that the company is not emphasising online sales as much at the moment.

Challenger now has around 40 stores islandwide and has plans to open new outlets.

With Musica Boutique, the 37-year-old business, which posted a net profit of \$4.5 million and revenue of \$82.5 million for the third quarter last year, is setting its sights on a different, growing segment.

Since 2014, Challenger said it has seen a rise in customers requesting for mid- to high-end products, or those priced around \$200 and above. Some of its products now start at \$9.90.

These buyers tend to be 35 years old and above. They are looking for a good sound system for their homes, although younger people appear willing to pay a premium for products such as noise-cancelling headphones as well, Challenger's chief marketing officer Loo Pei Fen told The Straits Times.

Ms Loo noted that stores with dedicated listening rooms tend to focus on just sound systems and may even carry only one brand.

To differentiate itself, Challenger decided to bring its "multi-brand"

SEEING, HEARING THE REAL DEAL

The one thing that online shopping cannot do is recreate sound and sight... An iPad's retina display cannot be experienced with another device and it's the same for premium speakers.

**CHALLENGER'S CHIEF MARKETING** OFFICER LOO PEI FEN

approach to Musica Boutique, in its first foray into a luxury mall. Its products cost from \$500 to over \$50,000.

Mr Loo hopes Musica Boutique can contribute meaningfully to Challenger's bottom line in six months, but he did not provide a figure.

"Sound is very subjective," added Ms Loo, who is the CEO's daughter. "Customers have to listen to as many (products) as possible in an accessible environment."

Half of the brands and 80 per cent of the product models that are available in Musica Boutique are not carried in the Challenger stores. These include products from German audio equipment manufacturer Beyerdynamic and French brand Focal.

Explaining the focus on digital products, Ms Loo said: "People consume music on iTunes, YouTube and Spotify, and watch movies on Netflix."

These are areas in which good audio is appreciated, she added.

Despite the popularity of online shopping, Ms Loo is confident that there remains a demand for the company's latest brick-and-mortar presence. "The one thing that online shopping cannot do is recreate sound and sight," she said.

"An iPad's retina display cannot be experienced with another device and it's the same for premium speakers... that's one main reason customers do not approach the principal (seller online) directly."

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# Consumer giants try to get people to subscribe online

The companies are pitching new online subscription services, which promise stable revenues, lower delivery costs and valuable data about customers.

Nestle, whose Nespresso coffee is already a sizeable subscription business, recently launched a subscription programme for nutritional drinks in Japan and expanded ReadyRefresh, an online bottled water service, in the United States.

It also wants to expand the Tails.com subscription pet food from Britain to continental Europe, an executive told Reuters. It is testing the service in France

for a possible launch this year. Unilever on Monday will launch its Skinsei brand in the US after testing, offering "personalised" skincare by subscription. It expanded its Dollar Shave Club subscription razor service to include cologne and beard oil last year and toothpaste in 2017.

Meanwhile, P&G expanded its Gillette on Demand razor subscription service to Canada. Subscribers can text when they are ready for their next shipment.

Selling directly lets manufacturers skirt retailers, giving them more profit and control over pricing, promotions and merchandising. This helps when retailers such as Amazon and Sainsbury's are pressing consumer product companies for discounts and pouring resources into own-label products.

Subscription selling gives them guaranteed revenues, a better picture of customers and can make goods cheaper to deliver.

Liz Cadman, founder of mysubscriptionaddiction.com, said children's educational boxes were the US website's hottest category last year, followed by grooming, make-up and beauty. The biggest losers were snacks, clothing and pet goods, she said.

The trouble, analysts say, is high cancellation rates as consumers get bored, high marketing costs, costly delivery and the fact that people often end up with goods they don't want.

Mondelez International has suspended its Oreo Cookie Club, a programme rolled out last year. For US\$20 (S\$27) a month, subscribers got a box containing Oreos in different flavours, with recipe cards, candy and merchandise such as Oreo-branded socks, sunglasses or cups.

General Mills axed its Nibblr subscription snack business in 2015 after 18 months. A similar project from Kellogg never materialised. While subscriptions delight some consumers, they frustrate others because "you end up with too much of the product or too little", P&G chief financial officer Jon Moeller told Reuters.

Subscriptions represent about 10 per cent of all US online sales, and more than 1 per cent of all retail sales, said Mr Burt Flickinger, managing director of consumer consulting firm Strategic Resources Group.

He said subscriptions are the hottest part of the industry, growing more than 17 per cent a year and outpacing overall online sales - which are growing more than 12 per cent - and may exceed 10 per cent of the US retail market in five years and 15 per cent in 10 years.

Unilever's global brand vicepresident of skincare, Ms Valentina Ciobanu, told Reuters the firm wants to make its subscriptions more flexible because consumers demand options.

However, she and other executives said it was unclear if subscription brands would take off or remain niche. "For now, it's still early adopters. The question mark is how long will it take to become more mass, and I think nobody has the answer to that question," said Mr Bernard Meunier, who runs Nestle's Purina Petcare business in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. REUTERS

# Surbana building new campus for global HQ

# Jurong Innovation District facility to be ready by 2021 can accommodate up to 4,000 staff

Urban and infrastructure consultancy Surbana Jurong is building a new campus for its global headquarters in the upcoming Jurong Innovation District. The ground-breaking ceremony for the 68,915 sq m development was held yesterday.

Surbana Jurong Campus, as the building is named, will be completed by 2021 and can accommodate up to 4,000 employees.

It is one of the first tenants in the Jurong Innovation District – which was planned to be home to advanced manufacturing, urban solutions and smart logistics firms – and its location there will facilitate collaborations with research and development and capability developers, start-ups and technology enablers, said Surbana Jurong.

The new campus is located close to Nanyang Technological University (NTU), with which Surbana Jurong set up the SJ-NTU Corporate Lab last year, with the support of the National Research Foundation.

Some of the urban solutions research projects being developed in the laboratory will be trialled in the new campus and then commercialised, noted Surbana Jurong group chief executive officer Wong Heang Fine.

He highlighted that the new building's design, development, engineering and management services have been and will be undertaken entirely by Surbana Jurong, in "a testament to how far the company has come".

# Ex-general to head Tower Transit

Christopher Tan Senior Transport Correspondent

Bus operator Tower Transit Singapore has appointed a former general to lead its ranks.

Mr Winston Toh, 58, most recently executive vice-president and chief marketing officer at ST Engineering (Land Systems), will assume the helm as managing director on Feb 1.

A former brigadier-general in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Mr Toh replaces former managing director Andrew Bujtor, 35, who left Tower Transit Singapore last September after setting it up in 2015, when it clinched Singapore's first competitive bus route tender.

Mr Toh said in a statement yester-day: "I've visited Tower Transit Singapore's Bulim depot to say hello to people and get an early feel of the ground. It's a good feeling stepping into a company where staff are happy to work and where the culture is open.

"I've met old hands in the industry, folks who've gone from bus captain to management, and bright young minds who are new to public transport."

The British firm operates 29 routes and employs close to 900 people. "Winston brings to Tower Transit Singapore more than 10 years of experience in corporate leadership." the company said.

leadership," the company said.

Before joining the corporate world, Mr Toh spent 27 years in the SAF. He was commander of 9th Division and chief infantry officer. He has a Master of Science in Strategic Studies and a Master of Arts in Diplomacy.

Tower Transit chairman Neil Smith said: "Finding the right person to lead Tower Transit Singapore is critical because of how important Singapore is to us.

"Singapore's reputation as a leader in public transport planning is quickly growing around the world, driven by a forward-thinking government that's actively exploring and testing new technologies in passenger transport.

"We're proud to operate here; we've sunk our roots and become part of the community, with close to 70 per cent of our bus captains being citizens and permanent residents."

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The campus is designed, for instance, by Safdie Surbana Jurong, a partnership established in 2017 with renowned architect Moshe Safdie.

It follows sustainable design principles as a "super-low-energy building", featuring green technologies such as solar panels and smart lighting. It also uses productive construction techniques such as digital modelling and precast materials.

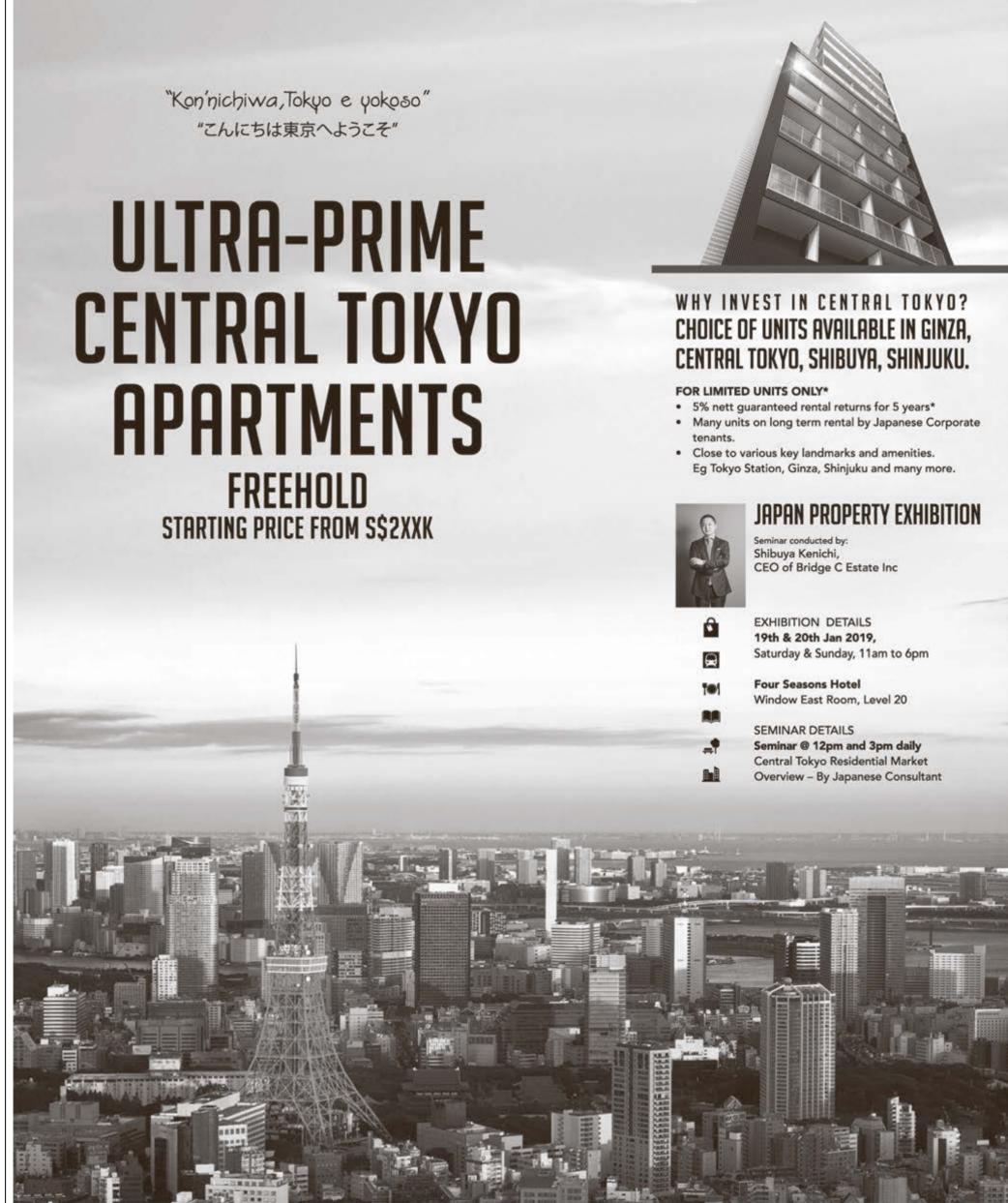
The development of the campus is being fully funded by an investment from global financial solutions provider M&G Real Estate.

Under the develop-and-lease model, the campus will be developed by Surbana Jurong's investment arm Surbana Jurong Capital on a land parcel acquired by M&G Real Estate. Upon completion, the development will be fully leased to Surbana Jurong.

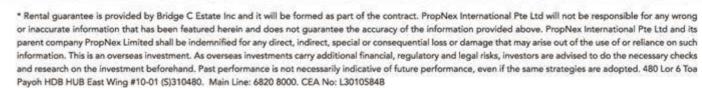
The \$400 million investment is part of M&G Real Estate's Asian property strategy and marks its first business park office investment in Singapore.



**Professor** Yaacob Ibrahim (centre), adviser to the president of the Singapore Institute of Technology, and Safdie Architects' Mr Moshe Safdie discussing the design of Surbana Jurong Campus at yesterday's ground-breaking event. The campus' location in Jurong Innovation District will facilitate collaborations with R&D and capability developers, start-ups and technology enablers, said Surbana Jurong. ST PHOTO: KELVIN CHNG

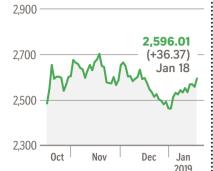




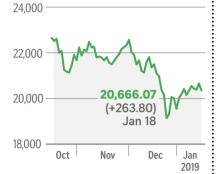




# Shanghai Comp



# Nikkei 225



# **Dow Jones**



**Straits Times Index stocks** 

# BullsAndBears

# Regional shares buoyed by investor sentiment

# Region ends in the black as news of US paring tariffs bolsters confidence

# Navin Sregantan

Talk that the United States may lift tariffs and roll back its trade war with China buoyed investor sentiment and helped regional shares end the week on a positive note.

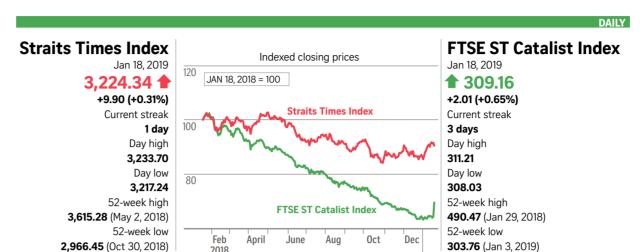
Local stocks responded in like fashion with the Straits Times Index (STI) ending 9.90 points or 0.3 per cent higher at 3,224.34 and 0.8 per cent up for the week.

Turnover was 2.05 billion shares worth \$906.9 million with gainers outpacing losers 241 to 137 while 23 of the 30 STI constituents ended the day in the black.

"The impact from the weakerthan-expected December trade performance from China on Monday was a short-lived one as announcements for more Chinese stimulus, US earnings and trade hopes lifted global equity markets in tandem," said IG market strategist Pan Jingyi.

"Both the sustained US government shutdown and the chaos following the Brexit vote were largely shrugged off by the market."

The most active stock was Ezion Holdings, which added 3.92 per cent to 5.3 cents, with 154.9 million shares changing hands. Other actives included Rex International and Kris Energy. Yangzijiang Shipbuilding was the most active index stock of the day, gaining 2.3 per cent





to \$1.35 on trade of 31.9 million.

The talk of the town was Japanese electronics retailer Nojima Corp's conditional cash offer for Courts Asia at 20.5 cents a share, announced before the market opened. Shares in the electrical and furniture retailer resumed trade in the afternoon, surging 31.6 per cent to 20 cents, the highest in almost seven months. The closing price was 2.5 per cent under Nojima's offer price.

The counter, which averaged a turnover of 301,000 shares over

'VOL GROSS
'000 YIELD%

the last 15 trading days, saw 2.23 million change hands yesterday.

Property player CapitaLand, which on Monday sealed the deal to acquire Temasek unit Ascendas-Singbridge for \$11 billion, closed 0.6 per cent up at \$3.30. It gained 0.9 per cent from the trading day before the announcement.

Among financials, DBS Group Holdings gained 0.2 per cent to \$25.14, OCBC added 0.2 per cent to \$11.75 and United Overseas Bank rose 0.4 per cent to \$26.54.

Elsewhere in Asia, shares were lifted by a possible resolution of the US-China trade dispute, with markets in Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, mainland China, South Korea and Malaysia ending in the black. The biggainer was the Shanghai Composite Index, which added 0.4 per cent. The benchmark index has posted gains for the third week in succession and is up 4.1 per cent this year.

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# Hopes of trade war reprieve spark wider global rally

LONDON • The risk-on tone in global markets extended yesterday, propelling stocks higher amid further optimism for US-China trade talks and stable borrowing costs.

Haven assets declined, from Treasuries and bonds to gold and the yen. US equity futures rose, following the S&P 500 Index's first close above its 50-day average since early last month, and all 19 sectors of the Stoxx Europe 600 Index climbed.

Oil extended a third week of gains towards US\$53 a barrel in New York. Treasuries fell along with core German and French sovereign debt, while an index of European corporate credit risk fell to a two-month low.

Equities and lower-rated debt head into the weekend with momentum after investors got some relief over concerns about the growth and rates outlook from United States economic data and central bankers. Chicago Fed president Charles Evans said the American economy is doing well, allowing that "we can easily be patient" in deciding on further interest-rate increases.

Global stocks powered towards their fourth weekly gain, helped by positive reports on trade. "We think valuations are attractive," said Ms Marija Veitmane, senior multi-asset strategist at State Street. "There's quite a lot of bad news already priced in. Lack of bad news is good news, and we can see markets re-pricing back to higher multiples." BLOOMBERG

HIGH	LOW	COMPANY	TRADED SALE	+OR-	'000	YIELD%	P/BV
286	245	Ascendas Reit	271	-2	10837	5.9	1.3
196	161	CapitaCom Trust		+1	9733	4.7	1
388	298	CapitaLand		+2	7821	3.6	0.7
238	195	CapitaMall Trust		+1	11450	4.9	1.1
1359	780	CityDev	898	+24	1677	2	0.8
251	196	ComfortDelGro	214	+1	7294	4.9	1.8
3128	2265	DBS Grp	2514	+6	2482	5.7	1.4
994	767	DairyFarm USD	US948	+4	560	2.2	
141	85.5	Genting Sing	108	unch	20333	3.2	1.7
39	22.5	Golden Agri-Res	26.5	+1	9820	3.1	0.6
_42	_23	HPH Trust USD	US25.5	unch	1609	10.3	0.4
744	_588	HongkongLand USD	US690_	-6	2133	2.9	0.3
6974	5580	JMH USD	US6685	+38	213	2.4	0.7
4149	3155	JSH USD	US3661	+2	233	0.9	0.4
4105	2766	Jardine C&C	3706	-6	198	3.1	1.8
892	567	Keppel Corp	629	+2	1766	3.5	12
1404	1036	OCBC Bank	1175	+2 -7	4204	3.1	1.3
585	455 672	SATS		-7 -3	1996 1330	3.7	3.3 8.4
850 1184	914	SGX		-3 -8	931	4 4.2	0.4
292	231	SIA	252	-o +1	1827	5.2	1.1
370	319	SPHST Engineering		+6	5279	4.1	5.4
360	243	Sembcorp Ind		+2	3251	1.9	0.7
365	283	Singtel		+2	12346	6.7	1.7
94	57.5	ThaiBev		-0.5	8953	0.9	3.5
3037	2380	UOB		+10	1574	3.8	1.3
934	591	UOL		+11	1258	2.6	0.6
2965	1320	Venture Corp		+27	704	4	1.9
331	297	Wilmar Intl		unch	2414	3.1	0.9
166	84	YZJ Shipbldg SGD		+3	31922	3.3	1

# FTSE ST Large & Mid-Cap Index stocks

52- HIGH	-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CURRENCY LAST TRADED SALE	+OR-	'V0L '000	GROSS YIELD%
286	245	Ascendas Reit	271	-2	10837	5.9
127	105	Ascott Reit		unch	901	6.2
77	59	Bumitama Agri		+1	145	1.1
185 196	143 161	CDL HTrust CapitaCom Trust		-1 +1	506 9733	4.7
388	298	CapitaLand		+2	7821	3.6
238	195	CapitaMall Trust		+1	11450	4.9
169	133	CapitaR China Tr	143	-1	448	7.1
1359	780 196	CityDev		+24 +1	1677	2 4.9
251 3128	2265	ComfortDelGro DBS Grp		+1 +6	7294 2482	4.9 5.7
994	767	DairyFarm USD		+4	560	2.2
78	59	Far Éast HTrust		unch	1115	-
197	150	First Resources		-2	1061	4.1
236 117	211 101	Frasers Cpt Tr Frasers L&I Tr		-2 -2	1309 10330	5.4 6.5
141	85.5	Genting Sing		unch	20333	3.2
39	22.5	Golden Agri-Res		+1	9820	3.1
234	167	GuocoLand Ltd		+4	424	3.7
42	23	HPH Trust USD		unch	1609	10.3
744 6974	588 5580	HongkongLand US JMH USD		-6 : +38	2133 213	2.9 2.4
4149	3155	JSH USD		+2	233	0.9
4105	2766	Jardine C&C		_	198	3.1
59	44.5	Kep Infra Tr		+0.5	12090	7.2
892	567	Keppel Corp		+2	1766	3.5
133 215	108 151	Keppel Reit M1		unch -1	3679 3885	4.8 5.5
273	170	Man Oriental USD		+2	49	1.6
175	152	Mapletree Com Tr		-2	7927	5.3
213	184	Mapletree Ind Tr		-1	4078	5.9
138	118 107	Mapletree Log Tr		unch +1	9601	5.7
128 83.5	73	Mapletree NAC Tr NetLink NBN Tr		unch	7880 2343	6.2
1404	1036	OCBC Bank		+2	4204	3.1
215	136	OUE	148	+1	193	2
92.5	64.5	OUE HTrust		+1	1385	-
250 60.8	157 28	Olam Intl Oxley		+9 unch	854 3093	4.1 5.1
306	256	ParkwayLife Reit		+2	637	4.9
121	98	Raffles Medical	114	-1	844	2
585	455	SATS		-7	1996	3.7
850	672	SGX		-3	1330	4 4.2
1184 337	914 220	SIA SIA Engineering		-8 +1	931 228	4.2 5.1
292	231	SPH		+1	1827	5.2
107	98	SPHREIT		unch	1266	5.5
370	319	ST Engineering		+6	5279	4.1
360 281	243 149	Sembcorp Ind		+2 +5	3251 9071	1.9 1.2
201 58	39	Silverlake Axis		+5 unch	3666	7.4
147	88.5	SingPost		unch	1666	3.6
365	283	Singtel		+2	12346	6.7
299	158	StarHub		+1	1741	9
78 222	63.5 163	StarhillGbl Reit Suntec Reit		+0.5 +1	1715 6051	6.4 5.3
94	57.5	ThaiBev		-0.5	8953	0.9
10.2	3.7	Thomson Medical	7.6 ce		27330	-
3037	2380	UOB			1574	3.8
934 2965	591 1320	UOL Venture Corp		+11 +27	1258 704	2.6 4
331	297	Wilmar Intl		+27 unch	704 2414	3.1
244	183	Wing Tai		-1	712	4.1
166	84	YZJ Shipbldg SGD	135	+3	31922	3.3
191	116	Yanlord Land	126	-1	1888	5.4

# FTSE ST Small-Cap Index stocks

LAST SALE

145	129	AIMSAMP Cap Reit	137	+3	583	7.5	1
71	48	Accordia Golf Tr	55	unch	733	7	0.6
90.5	74	Ascendas-hTrust	81	unch	376	-	0.8
119	99	Ascendas-iTrust	108	unch	1085	5.6	1.3
58.5	12.2	Asian Pay TV Tr	13	+0.3	4320	50	0.2
65.5	48	Banyan Tree	59	+1	270	1.7	0.8
281	115	Best World	272	-1	1154	1.5	9.7
85.5	76	Boustead	79	-0.5	222	3.8	1.2
126	79.5	BreadTalk	89.5	+1.5	294	7.8	2.4
658	521	Bukit Sembawang	562	+7	22	3.2	1.1
88.5	65.5	Cache Log Trust	73	-0.5	1527	9.9	1
55	39.5	Centurion	41	+0.5	253	6.1	0.7
169	104	China Aviation	118	unch	738	3.8	1
47.5	29.5	China Everbright	34.5	+1	580	1.4	0.7
165	90.5	China Sunsine	130	unch	1390	2.3	1.5
107	64	Chip Eng Seng	69.5	unch	221	5.8	0.6
53.5	31.5	Cosco	35.5	+0.5	4139	-	1.5
700	302	Delong	602	+1	3	-	0.6
28 79	17.5 67.5	Duty Free Intl	21cd 72	-0.5	222 76	8.8	1.3
59.5	67.5 47	EC World Reit	72 53 cd	unch unch	4734	8.4 7.3	0.8 0.9
142	92	ESR-REIT	103 cd	+2	4734 852	7.3 8.3	0.9
155	134	First Reit	145	+2 -2	7114	6.6	0.9
82.5	66.5	Frasers HTrust	70.5	unch	241	-	0.9
27.5	16.4	Geo Energy Res	19.6	+0.7	4269	5.1	1.2
91	70.5	HRnetGroup	79.5	+0.7	4209	2.9	2.4
69	52	Health Mgt Intl	79.5 54	unch	75	0.6	5.2
279	73	Hi-PIntl	93.5	+0.5	4936	26.7	1.4
283	252	Hong Leong Fin	263	unch	50	4.9	0.6
82.5	71	IREIT Global	74.5	unch	45	8	1
41.5	18.3	Indofood Agri	20	+0.1	363	-	0.2
79.5	43	Japfa	77	unch	1451	0.6	1.4
84.5	49	KSH	52.5	+0.5	30	4.2	0.9
86.9	53	Kep-KBS Reit USD	65.5	+0.5	170	-	0.6
148	128	Keppel DC Reit	143	+1	3414	5	1.4
188	132	Keppel T&T	188	+1	25	1.9	1.2
11.9	7	KrisEnergy	8.7	+0.3	34912	_	1.1
79.5	44.5	Lian Beng	51.5 cd	+0.5	135	4.4	0.4
42.5	18	Lippo Malls Tr	21.5	+0.5	3740	16	0.8
54	30	MM2 Asia	35	+0.5	1501	-	1.9
98.5	69.5	ManulifeReit USD	82	+1	480	6.7	0.7
120	95	Metro	100	+0.5	189	5	0.6
32	5	Noble	8.1	susp	-	-	-
66.9	45	OUE Com Reit	48.5	+0.5	258	9.6	0.5
68	54	PEC	58	-	-	3.4	0.6
46	17	POSH	18.8	-0.4	131	-	0.6
64.5	44.5	Q&M Dental	49.5	unch	101	3.3	3.5
117	55.5	QAF Ltd	66	unch	147	7.6	0.7
83.5	70	RHT HealthTrust	76.5 cd	+1	10079	5.9	1
124	96	Riverstone	110	unch	94	2.1	3.6
55	22	SIIC Environment	29	unch	856	-	0.5
45	38	Sabana Reit	41.5	unch	655	8	0.8
119	90	Sheng Siong	110	-1	626	3	6.1
25.5	11.2	Sino Grandness	11.8	+0.1	9024	-	0.2
71	56	SoilbuildBizReit	60.5	+0.5	543	9.4	1
129	80.5	Tianjin ZX USD	87	-0.5	166	-	0.7
50	32.5	Tuan Sing	39	unch	595	1.5	0.5
136	54	UMS	60.5	+0.5	2111	8.3	1.4
112	58.5	Valuetronics	69.5	+0.5	1887	6.6	159.1
17.8	8.3	Ying Li Intl	12.4	-0.1	1221	- 0.7	0.3
54	24	Yoma Strategic	37 10 F	unch	2732	0.7	1
37.5	16.1	Yongnam	18.5	+0.4	185	-	0.4

# **Price and volume movers**

	VOL	CLOSE(\$)	CHANGE	+/-
P5 Capital	100.3	0.025	+0.016	+177.78
JCG Investment	121,901.4	0.003	+0.001	+50.00
Courts Asia	2,231.1	0.200	+0.048	+31.58
Transit Concrete	43.0	0.230	+0.030	+15.00
Informatics	46.1	0.056	+0.008	+16.67
SingaporeKitchen	110.0	0.110	-0.012	-9.84
Forise Intl	1,000.0	0.003	-0.001	-25.00
TA	200.1	0.186	-0.039	-17.33
Charisma Energy	6,210.0	0.003	+0.001	+50.00
DLF	189.7	0.173	+0.016	+10.19

# **ETFs**

52-N High	Week Low	Counter	Last Sale	+/-	Vol ('000)	Last Q Buy	uote Se
116.9 99 1176 12953 1438 1087 1074 1016 108.1 3755 100.6 88.8 148.2 105.4 130 366 685.5 220.8 8530 220.4 645 3113 5292 4044	110 82.5 626 11025 1330 970 1002 467 94.4 302 98.8 76.3 104.7 99 93.2 300 3373 375.1 1470 6252 154.9 530 2532 4210	ABF SG Bond ETF CIMB APAC Div US\$ CIMBASEAN40 US\$ GLDUS\$ IS ASIA HYG S\$D IS ASIA HYG US\$ IS ASIA BND US IS MS INDIA US\$ Lion-Phillip S-REIT Nikko AM STI ETF Nikko AM STI ETF Nikko AM-STC A REIT US\$ Nikko AM-STC A REIT US\$ NIKO AM-STC ASIA REIT PHIL SING INC PHIL SING INC PHIL SING INS XT MSB TASIA US\$ XT MSCHINA US\$ XT MSCHINA US\$ XT MSCHINA US\$ XT MSPAEX JP US\$ XT MSPAEX JP US\$ XT MSPAEX JP US\$ XT MSTAIWAN US\$ XT MSTAIWAN US\$ XT MSTAIWAN US\$ XT MSTAIWAN US\$ XT MSPAEX JP US\$ XT MSTAIWAN US\$	US87.1 US993 US12177 1350 US1001 US10023 US822 101.4 300 99.9 US82.5 112.6 105.4 US100.4 327.4 US3390 US517 US1629 US6291 US189.9 US551 US2540 US4730	+0.1 -5 -47 - -3 +0.2 +2 - -1.2 -0.3 +4 -	129 -2 3 -0 -37 467 11 17 -1355 60 -866 -22 14 -1 	113 87.3 992 12174 1351 1000 1022 822 100.7 328 99.8 82.9 112.6 104.9 99.6 326.8 3655 510.7 1630 6635 185 578 27550 4775	113.3 888 999 12177 1355 1000 1022 101. 333, 112. 105. 100, 327. 3700 516. 66711 191 5258 483
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Capital         2.5         177.8         1.6         Pine Cap         0.7           risma Energy         0.3         50.0         0.1         Vashion         0.2           Investment         0.3         50.0         0.1         Forise Intl         0.3           rts Asia         20         31.6         4.8         Oceanus         0.3           onic Aero         23         27.8         5.0         Jasper Inv         0.4
Capital         2.5         177.8         1.6         PineCap         0.7           risma Energy         0.3         50.0         0.1         Vashion         0.2           Investment         0.3         50.0         0.1         Forise Intl         0.3           rts Asia         20         31.6         4.8         Oceanus         0.3           onic Aero         23         27.8         5.0         Jasper Inv         0.4           Illidgs         0.5         25.0         0.1         Rich Capital         0.4           Soon         15.7         23.6         3.0         TA         18.6
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Most active	
VOLUME	VALUE (\$)
Ezion         154,948,400           Rex Intl         130,735,200           JCG Investment         121,901,400           KrisEnergy         34,912,300           YZJ Shipbldg SGD         31,922,000           Thomson Medical         27,330,200           AusGroup         23,994,500           Genting Sing         20,333,200           Nam Cheong         17,725,700           Vallianz         16,736,400	DBS Grp
Market volume 2,043,524,000	. Marketvalue 820,484,000

5.6 16.7 0.8 Anchor Resources ....

Bonds			
Company	Last Sale	+or-	Vol ('000)
CapMallTrb3.08%21022	101.3	-	-
CityDev NCCPS	107.7	+0.2	26
DBS Bk 4.7% NCPS	10498	+28	0
FPTrea 3.65%n220522	101	-0.1	52

6537

susp

Hyflux 6% CPS

# Growth risk seen to be higher with an extended US shutdown

# Gloomy forecasts for growth increase amid uncertainty on when closure will end

WASHINGTON • The United States government shutdown is causing some real pain, but economists are largely brushing off the risk to growth.

Analysts project the government will reopen by mid-February, though if the closure lasts to March, the disruptions will cause economic growth to dip below 2 per cent this quarter, according to the median forecast in a Jan 15 to 17 Bloomberg survey. At the same time, just under half say the shutdown increases the probability of a recession this year.

The relatively sanguine assessment is at odds with some more dire recent predictions, including by Deutsche Bank and the White House itself doubling the estimated negative fallout.

Even so, the shutdown adds risk at a time when the economy is already projected to slow; forecasters see the highest recession risk in six years, manufacturing is faltering and consumers and investors are getting more skittish.

"If the shutdown keeps going on throughout the first quarter, it'll be costly for growth," said Mr Ryan Sweet, head of monetary policy research at Moody's Analytics. While it probably will not end the expansion given the momentum at the start of the year, "it could leave a more lasting impression, weighing on business confidence, consumer sentiment and investor confi-

A separate Bloomberg survey of economists earlier this month raised the probability of a recession in the next 12 months to 25 per cent, the highest in more than six years, amid the shutdown and trade war. A Federal Reserve Bank of New York gauge put the chance at 21 per cent a year from now, the highest since 2008.

In the first quarter, the shutdown



will shave 0.25 percentage point from economic growth, according to the median of 30 responses in the survey. A slight majority of forecasters also said the full-year pace of expansion will be affected. Among those who do expect an impact, 2019 growth will be cut by 0.13 percentage point, according to the median estimate.

With the closure since Dec 22 now the longest in US history, there is no sign from US President Donald Trump or Congress that an agreement is near.

A majority of those polled this week said the closure will end on Feb 1 to 14, while just above a third estimated it would end this month. One saw a conclusion around Feb 15 to 28 and another saw the closure extending into March.

"Uncertainty is adding to the gloom, along with concerns about the fading boost from tax cuts and government spending stimulus, lion government contractors. geopolitical risks and higher borrowing costs," said Mr Bernard chairman Kevin Hassett told re-Baumohl, chief global economist at The Economic Outlook Group.

"With every week, the shutdown has an incrementally larger impact. That's begun to cast a dark picture among many business leaders, certainly among CFOs, that the economy is in trouble and could end up in a recession," Mr Baumohl said.

He does not forecast a recession this year, and estimates a one-inthree chance of a slump next year.

The shutdown also may affect the jobless rate, as hundreds of thousands of furloughed government workers could be classified as unemployed. The survey median is for a January unemployment rate of 4 per cent, rather than holding steady or edging down from last month's 3.9 per cent amid the strong labour market.

The White House on Tuesday doubled its estimate of the cost of the government shutdown on the economy – saying it had not been counting the effects on more than a mil-

Council of Economic Advisers porters the administration's new estimate of the shutdown's cost to

economic output is a reduction of 0.13 per cent every week, not 0.1 per cent every two weeks as previously estimated.

The shutdown and China trade war could be enough to tip the US economy into a contraction this year, Deutsche Bank chief international economist Torsten Slok said in a Bloomberg Television interview this week.

"If the government shutdown continues, it could cause a recession," he said.

Mr Ronald Paul, chief executive officer of Eagle Bancorp in suburban Washington, said on a conference call this week that if the shutdown goes beyond January, "it would begin to impact not only federal employees, but also smaller government contractors, and have a ripple effect on local retail businesses". BLOOMBERG

# **Frasers Commercial Trust**

**CompanyBriefs** 

Frasers Commercial Trust kept distribution per unit stable at 2.4 cents in the first quarter, even with hits to top and bottom lines, as distributable income was propped up on various fronts. Net property income fell by 15 per cent in the same period the year before, to \$21.1 million, according to financial statements released yesterday evening.

The earnings decline tracked an 11 per cent drop in gross revenue, to \$31.5 million, which the manager attributed to the sale of a property in August last year, lower occupancies at China Square Central and Alexandra Technopark, and the effects of a weaker Australian dollar.

But distributable income still rose by 11 per cent to \$21.6 million, helped by capital returns from hotel development rights at China Square Central, and by paying the management fee in units instead of in cash.

Distributable income was also shored up by contributions from Farnborough Business Park, in which Frasers Commercial Trust took a 50 per cent stake in January last year.

The real estate investment trust's six-property portfolio had an occupancy rate of 80.7 per cent as at Dec 31 last year, with a weighted average lease expiry of 4.3 years. It has interests in Australia and Britain, and in Singapore, where it owns both Alexandra Technopark and China Square Central in Cross

# Falcon Energy

Offshore and marine company Falcon Energy Group announced during midday trading break yesterday that it will suspend coupon payment on notes due today as it embarks on a complete debt overhaul.

The mainboard-listed company, in filings with the Singapore Exchange, also requested trading in its shares to be suspended.

Falcon blamed the moves on the prolonged slump in the oil services market and the need to conserve liquidity for business operations.

It said the company will embark on a complete restructuring of all its liabilities "which will include our bankers, note holders and other unsecured creditors".

Discussions with different stakeholders are currently ongoing, it added.

Falcon said it intends to propose a certain amount of conversion of its \$50 million notes due on Sept 19, 2017, to ordinary equity in the company, and a meeting will be convened shortly to discuss further steps and the restructuring of the notes.

The company is also in the process of discussing a restructuring of term loans with its bankers, said Falcon.

# Foxconn cuts 50,000 contract jobs in China amid slowdown

Apple's biggest iPhone assembler, Foxconn Technology Group, has let go around 50,000 contract workers in China since October, months earlier than normal, Nikkei reported yesterday.

The scale of the cuts is not necessarily deeper than previous years, but it is simply significantly earlier, the report said, citing an industry source familiar with the situation.

"It's quite different this year to ask assembly-line workers to leave before the year-end," the source told Nikkei. The contracts would usually be renewed every month from August until mid- to late January, when workforce is scaled back.

**Interbank currency rates** 

Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry, was not immediately available for a comment.

Earlier this month, Nikkei reported that Apple cut the current quarter's production plan for new iPhones by 10 per cent amid slowing demand in China, the world's largest smartphone market.

Yesterday, Nikkei reported that other key iPhone suppliers have also let workers go much earlier as Apple struggles with slower-thanexpected demand for its iconic smartphone.

Pegatron, Apple's second-biggest iPhone assembler, had also begun cancelling monthly contracts in November, Nikkei reported.

Foxconn is also hoping to cut costs with an organisational restructuring, Nikkei said, citing how it recently merged business units making Apple's MacBooks and iPads with another division making laptops and desktops for Dell and Acer.

The move was part of Foxconn's push to cut 100,000 jobs out of about 1.1 million by the end of last year.

Foxconn's Zhengzhou factory has seen peak employment fall from 400,000 to 300,000 in recent years due to automation and efficiency enhancements. REUTERS

## A customer at a restaurant opened by celebrity chef Jose Andres for federal workers and their families during a government shutdown in Washington, DC, yesterday. The shutdown is now the longest in US history.

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# **Government securities**

GOVERNM	ENT BONDS					Jan 18
Period	Issue code	Coupon rate (%)	Maturity	Close Bid	D: High	ay's Low
2-Year	NY05100N	3.250%	01-Sep-20	102.01	102.03	102.01
5-Year	NX13100H	2.750%	01-Jul-23	103.00	0.00	0.00
10-Year	NX18100A	2.625%	01-May-28	103.54	103.75	103.69
15-Year	NZ13100V	3.375%	01-Sep-33	111.29	111.45	111.40
20-Year	NZ16100X	2.250%	01-Aug-36	96.52	96.75	96.75
30-Year	NA16100H	2.750%	01-Mar-46	102.77	0.00	0.00
Note: Based	on latest issue			Source: Mone	tary Authority o	of Singapore

## **MSCI INDICES** World Preliminary 1504.0 0.2 1042.1 **EAFE Preliminary** 0.0 1450.4 -0.1 Europe Preliminary 0.2 Australia 1178.2 0.0 1942.3 0.4 7716.3 0.6 4.2 Denmark Preliminary 696.1 0.4 France Preliminary 1740.1 -0.3 1.6 876.2 -0.1 3.8 Greece Preliminary 45.0 -0.9 3.8 1268.5 0.1 0.5 7435.2 0.6 Indonesia 5.1 187.4 -0.2 4.5 Ireland Preliminary 0.8 6.4 0.1 6.5 Italy Preliminary 0.3 924.8 3.5 629.0 0.3 4.1 583.7 0.6 Malaysia 1488.9 0.0 Netherlands Preliminary New Zealand Norway Preliminary 2911.9 0.0 387.7 -0.1 1.3 6.9 Philippines 1349.6 Portugal Preliminary 83.8 0.3 3.7 Singapore 1679.5 -0.4 5.3 361.1 -0.4 5.3 Singapore Free

3.1566

# The Family of the Late

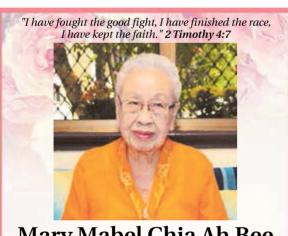


**CHIA TECK LIANG** Departed on 14 January 2019

wish to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Ministers, MPs, Government Officials, community leaders, clans and associations, representatives, business associates, overseas and local relatives, friends and colleagues for their kind assistance, attendance, condolences, contributions and wreaths during their recent bereavement.



19 January 2019



# Mary Mabel Chia Ah Bee

Age: 90

Was called home to be with the Lord on 18 January 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones. Husband: Cheng Ah King @ Wong (deceased)

Daughter-in-law:

Sons-in-Law:

Daughters: Susan Wong

Ashley Marc

Ernie Ong Lillian Wong (deceased) Agnes Wong Henry Ng Irene Wong Godson: Goddaughter-in-law: Theodore Lee Loo Kee

Goddaughter: Suzanne Chan Granddaughters-in-law: **Grandsons:** Christopher Shaun Ruby Nguyen Thi Bich Chi Darren Ong

Joanne Li Alexius Wong Gary Ignatius Gerald Wong Granddaughters: **God-Granddaughters:** 

Tricia Ng Apriel Rose Electra Lee Trina Ng Trissie Ng Allisis Lee **Great-Grandson: Great-Granddaughter:** Amelia Athanasius Wong

And all relatives and friends. Wake is held at Block 133 Cashew Road, Singapore 670133. Nightly prayers will be held at 8.00pm. Cortege leaves on Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 1.35pm for

Funeral Mass at St Joseph Church, 620 Upper Bukit Timah Road Singapore 678116 at 2.00pm, thereafter to Mandai Crematorium Hall 4 for cremation at 3.30pm



# In Memory Of



**Mdm Lee Leong Choo** 19 April 1940 - 17 January 2019

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Psalms 23:1-3

Husband: Chong Koon Fah

Son-in-law: Daughter: Chong Lo Lan Pearlyn Bilahari Kin Hee P. S. Kausikan

Son:

Chong Lo Han Eli

Grandchildren: David Raman Wei Siong P. S. Kausikan (Deceased) Catherine Kamala Wei Sin P. S. Kausikan

Care-giver: Analiza Canaveral

Wake is held at Singapore Casket Diamond Hall. Cortege leaves on 20 Jan 2019 (Sunday) at 1.45pm for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation.

Family requests no wreaths. Donations should be to Kidney Dialysis Foundation General Fund.



# Eric Chew Yee Teck, PBM

Age: 46

Passed away peacefully on 17 January 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Wife: Goh Jia Lin @ Goh Lay Peng

Mother: Mrs Chew Peck Chuan

Sons: Chew Wei Wen

Chew Wei Dong Siblings:

George Chew Gloria Chew Angela Chew Patricia Chew

Roy Chew

Lim Lai Lai Leslie Tan

Maxine Chen

Spouses:

Mother-in-law:

Lim Siew Choo

And all relatives and friends.

Wake is held at Singapore Casket Level 3, Pearl Hall, 131 Lavender Street, Singapore 338737.

Cortege leaves on Monday 21 January 2019 at 11.45am for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 12.45pm.

Memory wanders as shadows fall Back to the days of happiness, Days beyond recall. A vision comes before us, So calm, so dear, so sweet, Of her lips now silent And whose lids are closed in sleep.

**Obituaries** 

For enquiries, call

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6319-5192

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**SMBC Singapore Open 2019** 

# SAME STROKES, DIFFERENT MOODS

Joint-leader Casey laments front-nine blues, Thai Poom satisfied with second-round 70

NOT TOO PLEASED

It was good, I mean, I managed to get the last one out of the way, that was disappointing, but the rest was really nice.

"

**PAUL CASEY**, joint clubhouse leader with Poom Saksansin after a 67, on the bogey on his closing hole.

PLEASED AS PUNCH

"Although I shot only one under, I think it was a very nice round. The wind was picking up and my iron-play wasn't that good.



**POOM SAKSANSIN**, taking the positives from his second-round 70.

**Lester Wong** 

They played on the same flight and had the same score after the second round of the US\$1 million (S\$1.35 million) SMBC Singapore Open yesterday. But what Paul Casey and Poom Saksansin did not share, after holding the joint clubhouse lead at the halfway mark, was the same mood.

World No. 24 Casey cut a frustrated figure after finishing his day with a bogey on the ninth for a fourunder 67 and 135 total at the weather-delayed tournament.

"It was good, I mean, I managed to get the last one out of the way, that was disappointing, but the rest was really nice," he said.

The Englishman, 41, has not dropped a shot on the back nine of the Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong Course this week, sinking seven birdies. But it has been a different story on the front nine – four bogeys, with two coming on the ninth.

Still, the Ryder Cup winner was in good enough mood to add to his ongoing jokes about Poom, who beat him in the EurAsia Cup last January.

"It's nice to be on top of the leaderboard with my best mate Poom, whom I can't seem to beat. He's great," he said with a wry smile.

"I think my second round was better than his, but there's still time."



Saksansin
hitting out of
the bunker on
the 18th hole at
the rain-delayed
Singapore Open
at Sentosa's
Serapong Course
yesterday. He is
looking forward
to some
welcome rest
and chicken rice.
ST PHOTO:
KEVIN LIM

Thailand's Poom

Poom, on the other hand, was pleased with his second-round 70.

"Although I shot only one under, I think it was a very nice round. The wind was picking up and my ironplay wasn't that good," he said.

Asked what he thought of Casey considering him his "nemesis", the soft-spoken Thai, 25, demurred: "Casey played really nicely today. "He hit it so far on the eighth hole.

He's I really liked that shot. I have to follow my own style because he hits it long and I hit it short."

The duo were among the 78 play-

ers forced to finish their first rounds yesterday after weather delays ended play on Thursday.

A downpour suspended play again yesterday morning for about two hours, which meant the other half of the field could not complete their second rounds. Defending champion Sergio Garcia is three under after eight holes.

Play resumes at 7.30am today, with the third round slated to start in the afternoon.

Japan's Taihei Sato and Shotaro Wada are one stroke off the lead on

136 while Davis Love III is tied for sixth at 137.

It was not the best of days for Singaporeans, with only Johnson Poh and amateur James Leow (both 141) of the 12 meeting the projected one-under cut, although Koh Deng Shan is also one under after nine holes.

Both Casey and Poom said they were looking forward to some welcome rest after 25 holes in a day.

"My feet are starting to hurt. Fingers crossed that we get done (with the third round) by tomorrow," said Casey. "Hopefully, the guys can play

quickly tomorrow so we can crack on and have 18 holes on Sunday." Poom revealed that he had some

dinner plans in mind as well.

"I am going to eat some good food, really get a good one. No more 7-Eleven (dinners) for me. Maybe

lesterw@sph.com.sg

I'll eat chicken rice," he said.

SEE ALSO C15

SMBC SINGAPORE OPEN
Day 3: StarHub Ch201, noon



**SMBC Singapore Open 2019** 

# CHOI HOOKS FANS WITH HIS 'FISHERMAN SWING'

Self-taught golfer defends unorthodox style, says it gives him more power in drives

**Lester Wong** 

For a sport a little light on personality and verve, Choi Ho-sung is something of a godsend, a pantomime character who just happens to be a pro who can win as well.

When the South Korean first set the Internet abuzz with his "fisherman swing" last June, he was widely dismissed as a gimmicky showman.

He was already 44 years old and had not won in five years. Winning the Casio World Open on the Japan Golf Tour last November went some way to shushing the critics.

"At first when we looked at the replies from fans (on social media), a lot of them thought I was doing (the swing) on purpose to be funny," said the Pohang native, now 45, who is playing at the SMBC Singapore Open this week.

"But people realised, after I got some results, that I am serious and I am doing it to survive on the Tour and cope with the competition."

He had been trying out some variant of his trademark swing since 2013, but he said it was not until last year that he mastered it.

Where the conventional golfer is all stillness and precision for the follow-through, he lifts his right foot off the ground, swinging it round his body to complete a pirouette.

Ignoring his pre- and post-shot theatrics that included hoisting his driver skyward like a flagpole, analysis of his swing showed that his fundamentals are actually pretty sound up to the point where his club makes contact with the ball.

Golf.com's Luke Kerr-Dineen noted in his frame-by-frame breakdown: "His follow-through is more a reaction, some combination of nervousness and flair. That's fine. The ball is long gone by that point."

Choi's "style" came about, he explained, because "I am not as flexible as the young guys, and I can't really turn my hips very well. This way, I get more power and have a

lower chance of getting injured". But the most important thing is that it gives him length, saying: "Golf today is all about distance."

As his average drive distance increased from 269 to 282 yards last year, he saw his world ranking rise from 528 after the Singapore missed cut to 205 as he made the weekend play in his last 11 events.

At Sentosa yesterday, he was on four under through seven holes after a first-round 69, after secondround play was disrupted by fur-

ther weather delays. Choi is a rarity in this age of professional sport, being entirely selftaught. After graduating from high school at 20, he had a series of parttime jobs, including at a tuna factory where a freak chainsaw accident saw him lose part of his right

A job at Anyang Country Club seemed just that, another job.

"Two years into the job in 1997,



South Korean golfer Choi Ho-sung teeing off on the third hole during the first round of the SMBC Singapore Open at Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong Course on Thursday. He will be taking his "fisherman swing" to Pebble Beach next month for his PGA Tour debut. ST PHOTO: KEVIN LIM

**LEADERBOARD** 

round)

2ND RD (selected, half of field

yet to finish weather-disrupted

135 Poom Saksansin (Tha) 65 70,

Paul Casey (Eng) 68 67

136 Taihei Sato (Jpn) 65 71,

Shotaro Wada 66 70 (Jpn)

Davis Love III (USA) 69 68

Johnson Poh (Sgp) 7170

137 Chapchai Nirat (Tha) 6770,

141 a-James Leow (Sgp) 68 73,

**142** Daniel Chopra (Swe) 72 70

144 a-Lucius Toh (Sgp) 75 69,

Mardan Mamat (Sgp) 7371

the management changed. The new management's policy was that if you worked here, you had to understand how to play. So that was how I started," recalled Choi.

He did not have an instructor and did not have a natural affinity for the game. What he did have was a can-do spirit, which led to him going semi-pro in 1998 and fully professional in 2001.

He then eked out a journeyman career on the Korean and Japan tours for more than a decade until, as far as the world was concerned, shooting to prominence last year.

He is riding high now. On Monday, Choi told Korean media that he would be taking his "fisherman swing" to Pebble Beach next month for his PGA Tour debut after receiv-

ing a sponsor's exemption. Despite the increased scrutiny from fans, media and even the world's top players, Choi feels no pressure to change the way he does

At first when we looked at the replies from fans (on social media), a lot of them thought I was doing (the swing) on purpose to be funny.

CHOI HO-SUNG, South Korean golfer, on his unorthodox

things on the course.

"It's not right to have everyone fit into a standard because everyone has a different body type and a different swing that works for them," he said. "No one has the right answer. There can be many.'

lesterw@sph.com.sg

**SportsWorld** 

# Barca player ineligible: Levante

BARCELONA • Levante have filed a complaint to the Spanish football federation claiming that Barcelona fielded an ineligible player in their King's Cup last-16, first-leg match, the LaLiga side tweeted yesterday.

Barcelona won the tie 4-2 on aggregate on Thursday, but Levante say that defender Juan "Chumi" Brandariz was ineligible to play in the first leg on Jan 10, which Levante won 2-1, as he was serving a suspension for their B team.

If the federation decides against the Spanish champions, who deny breaking any rules, they will be thrown out of the Cup – which they have won for the last four years – with Levante taking their place in the quarter-finals. REUTERS

# Mickelson first to card third 60

LOS ANGELES • Five-time Major golf champion Phil Mickelson flirted with a 59 in the opening round of the PGA Tour Desert Classic on Thursday, before settling for his third career round of 60.

The American rolled in 10 birdies and an eagle en route to a 12-under 60 to become the first player in Tour history to post three scores

The 48-year-old, who went on to win the Phoenix Open twice when he shot a 60, finished the day with a three-shot lead over fellow American Adam Long, who fired a nine-under 63, while Australia's Curtis Luck was a stroke behind in third. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

# Henderson, Ji share 1st-round lead

MIAMI · Canada's Brooke Henderson and Ii Eun-hee of South Korea set the early pace in the opening round of the LPGA Tour Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions on Thursday, with both ending the first round with six-under 65s.

The duo led New Zealand's Lydia Ko and Stacy Lewis of the United States by one shot.

The event sees LPGA tournament winners from the past two seasons playing alongside celebrities like former National Basketball Association star Ray Allen and amateurs. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

# Alvarez-Jacobs fight set for May 4

LOS ANGELES • Mexican Saul "Canelo" Alvarez and fellow middleweight champion Daniel Jacobs of the United States will meet in a May 4 unification bout, Golden Boy Promotions and streaming service DAZN announced on Thursday.

While the venue has not been determined, multiple reports have indicated it will be at the

The fight will be Alvarez's first since earning a technical knockout victory over Britain's Rocky Fielding last month, winning the World Boxing Association (WBA) super middleweight title to go along with the World Boxing Council and WBA middleweight belts that he already held. REUTERS

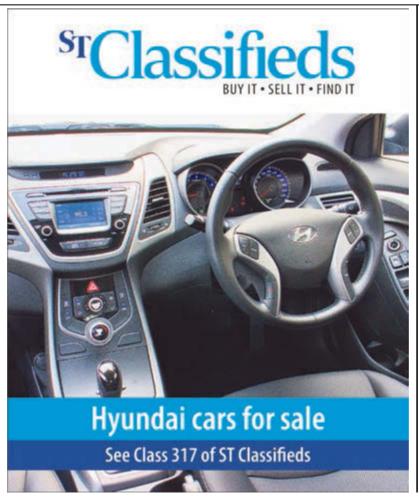
# NBA game in Paris next season?

LONDON • National Basketball Association commissioner (NBA) Adam Silver has revealed the league is considering playing a

regular-season game in Paris next year. For the ninth successive year, the league is playing one match in London, but Silver is keen to grow the NBA's global brand and playing in France could be the next step. The Bercy Arena in Paris last hosted a pre-season game in 2010.

Hinting that a game will be scheduled for Paris, possibly instead of the London fixture, Silver admitted on Thursday that he was looking to tap into the large basketball fan base in the country, with nine French players currently in the league, including Utah Jazz's Rudy Gobert and Tony Parker of the Charlotte Hornets. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE







**BigMatch** 

# **ARSENAL FACE BLUES** WITH LEAKY DEFENCE

# Gap at the back is apparent against the top 6, with 15 goals conceded in 6 matches this term

**Richard Jolly** 

There was a time when Arsenal fans used to celebrate their side's efficient tediousness. Those days are long gone.

The chant of "one-nil to the Arsenal" was the soundtrack of George Graham's reign and rendered redundant in the second half of Ar-

Now clean sheets are such rarities that Arsenal have only three in the Premier League this season.

If they used to build from the back, now ambitions could go unrealised because of defensive deficien-

That has been apparent since August. Arsenal faced Chelsea then, played their part in a hugely entertaining game and lost 3-2.

It set the tone for a season in which Arsenal have let in 15 goals in six meetings with the rest of the top

six. The best have exposed their shortcomings. The high defensive line that Chelsea exploited has remained an issue; so, too, a rashness that has led them to concede three penalties in those six games.

If Arsenal's defending was at its most gruesome in December's 5-1 evisceration at Anfield and the figures explain why they have a solitary win against their peers, it has been a bigger problem.

It showed how Wenger's side were becoming more disorganised in his final season that Arsenal endured their worst defensive campaign for 34 years, conceding 51

Now they are on course to let in 55. It is worth noting that only one of the last 64 sides to finish in the top four has conceded a half-century of goals - Brendan Rodgers' Liverpool, who scored a century in 2013-14.

Arsenal are not that prolific.

They can plead injuries in mitigation, but the problems are of statistics, style, structure and personnel.

Perhaps the most worrying element is that Arsenal have conceded only two fewer goals than bottom club Huddersfield in open play.

They are unlocked too often, especially since Lucas Torreira lost form and, recently, his place after a terrific start to the season in which the Uruguayan gave Arsenal muchneeded midfield bite.

The bigger issues come behind him. Their centre-backs' lack of

pace can be exposed when they push up. Goalkeeper Bernd Leno may be an upgrade on Petr Cech, but perhaps not enough of one.

Arguably Arsenal do not have any of the five best goalkeepers or 10 finest centre-backs in England. Sokratis Papastathopoulos is too slow, Shkodran Mustafi too inconsistent, a declining Laurent Koscielny perhaps too old.

Rob Holding's improvement represented a triumph of Unai Emery's management but he is now out for the season. Emery has swopped between three and four at the back, looking to camouflage flaws.

Yet they have been apparent too often, as the numbers show. Arsenal do not have a defence worthy of a top-four side and it could cost them Champions League football. Being entertainers can backfire.

stsports@sph.com.sg

tomorrow, 1.30am

**ARSENAL V CHELSEA** Singtel TV Ch102 & StarHub Ch227,

# **Match points: Arsenal v Chelsea**

sene Wenger's.



# Key battles

# Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang v Antonio Rudiger

It has the makings of a fine race. Rudiger may be one of the few defenders quick enough to keep up with Aubameyang. The division's joint-top scorer has been unusually erratic with his finishing in Arsenal's last two games, scoring from only one of nine efforts. Rudiger may look to emulate Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk by snuffing Aubameyang out.





Granit Xhaka v N'Golo Kante

Two men who joined their respective clubs as defensive midfielders in 2016. If that was never really Xhaka's preferred role, Kante has been granted a new position by Maurizio Sarri. Now the all-action Frenchman gets into the penalty box more. Kante has had six shots in his last five games, so Xhaka may have to track his runs.





# Sokratis Papastathopoulos v Eden Hazard

This is Papastathopoulos' first meeting with elite opponents since his traumatic display at Anfield. Mohamed Salah was too quick and clever for the cumbersome Greek then. Now the risk is that Hazard will be, too. The presumption is that the Belgian will be asked to reprise his role as a false nine, at least until Gonzalo Higuain is signed.





Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech, who will retire at the end of this season, made 494 appearances for Chelsea and won 15 trophies with the Blues. Home run

W8 D2 L1

Arsenal's home league record under manager Unai Emery - undefeated since the first game of the season, when they lost 2-0 to Manchester City.

# **Key statistics**

Stalled attack

Chelsea and former Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud's goals in his last 19 Premier League games.



Chelsea goals in their last eight games in all competitions.

# Away run

Chelsea have won their last three away league games - Brighton, Watford and Crystal Palace.

# London calling

This is the sixth of a run of eight games Chelsea will play in London.

TEXT: RICHARD JOLLY PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

# Need for reinforcements not diluting Sarri's focus

LONDON • Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri's focus is solely on today's Premier League visit to Arsenal and not moves in the January transfer window, despite the increasing possibility the club will be adding Gon-

zalo Higuain to their ranks. The striker is expected to complete a loan move from Juventus, with the Daily Mail reporting he ar-

rived in London yesterday. While the 31-year-old cannot feature at the Emirates as he was not registered in time, the Argentinian could possibly make his debut at Stamford Bridge with Chelsea taking on Tottenham in the second leg of their League Cup semi-final on Thursday.

Sarri previously coached Higuain at Napoli where he scored an Italian Serie A record of 36 goals in the 2015-16 season.

Although his stock has fallen this

term with only eight goals in 22 appearances for AC Milan after being forced out on loan following Juventus' blockbuster signing of Cristiano Ronaldo in the summer, Sarri will be hopeful he can regain his scoring touch with a change of environment.

Olivier Giroud and Atletico Madrid-bound Alvaro Morata have scored a paltry six league goals between them this season, with Eden Hazard leading the way with 10. Such has been the dearth of firepower at Stamford Bridge that Sarri

has been compelled to press the Belgian into a "false nine" role despite him more used to starting out wide. At his pre-match press confer-

ence yesterday, Sarri declined to be drawn on Higuain's imminent arrival, insisting that while he had made club director and chief transfer negotiator Marina Granovskaia aware of what his side needed, he "did not know" who was coming through the door.

The Italian told reporters: "I spoke with Marina two weeks ago, so Marina knows very well my opinion on how to improve the team. "Then I decide to be focused on

the pitch, on matches, on training. "I don't call her every evening, otherwise, I spend all my mental en-

ergies on the market. It's better if I: spend all my mental energies on the pitch."

Besides Higuain, compatriot Leandro Paredes has also been hotly linked as a replacement for midfielder Cesc Fabregas, who left earlier this month to join Monaco.

However, the Blues will have to act fast with Paris Saint-Germain looking to gazump Sarri to his signa-

According to Sky Italia's Gianluca di Marzio, the French champions are attempting to hijack the deal and have reportedly tabled a €35 million (S\$54 million) bid for the Zenit St Petersburg midfielder, who according to The Guardian, averages 7.6 accurate long balls per game and is known for his ability to switch play.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

We know very well we will have to fight for the top four until the end I think. United will fight for sure until the end. Arsenal, Tottenham are close to us in the table. there are four teams

for two places.

MAURIZIO SARRI, Chelsea manager, on the route to next season's Champions League.

# **KEEP FOOT** ON PEDAL, **WARNS SOLSKJAER**

United interim boss says players cannot be complacent despite their 6 straight victories LONDON • Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has warned his Manchester United players against complacency as they seek to extend their perfect record under him against Brighton in the Premier League today.

The Norwegian has won all six of his matches in charge - the best start of any United manager since taking over on Dec 19 following the sacking of Jose Mourinho, and will look to keep up their hot streak at Old Trafford.

While the home team are on a high after beating Tottenham 1-0 away last weekend, Solskjaer wants his team to continue to play on the front foot and "not take their foot off the pedal".

He told reporters at his prematch press conference: "You go into every single game as a United coach, player or manager thinking you'll win the next one, that's just the nature of this club.

"We've had six good games but the next one is the most important one. You cannot be too confident.

"I want them (the players) going into games full of confidence, taking people on, getting the crowd with them as that's what it's

Paul Pogba agreed with the interim boss about taking the game to the opposition, telling Sky Sports now that they "know where to attack and where to go", the club have rediscovered the attacking verve that was their hallmark under former manager Alex Fergu-

The France midfielder, who has four league goals and four assists in his last five matches since being granted freedom on the pitch, added: "The way we are playing we have more possession of the ball.

"We have more of a pattern of play and more of a structure. That makes it easier for everyone."

However, not all have been beneficiaries of United's upturn in form. Both Alexis Sanchez and Romelu Lukaku are again expected to be named on the bench today.

Sanchez has made only one substitute appearance in the league while Marcus Rashford has supplanted Belgium striker Lukaku as

the focal point of United's attack. But Solskjaer feels Chilean forward Sanchez still has an important role to play in the second half of the season.

He said: "His attitude has been fantastic in training and I'm looking forward to seeing him."

Marouane Fellaini, another Mourinho favourite, has also been on the fringes, making just two substitute appearances for United during their impressive run of form.

Although he has been ruled out for up to four weeks with a calf injury, Solskjaer insisted the Belgium midfielder, who has been the subject of exit rumours in the transfer window, remains part of his immediate plans.

He said: "We all know Felli's Xfactor. He'll be working hard to get back in when all the big games are coming as well."

The timing of his injury also meant Scotland midfielder Scott McTominay will unlikely be allowed to leave on loan to Celtic. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS

**MANUNITED V BRIGHTON** Singtel TV Ch103 & StarHub Ch228,

# **ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE**

# **TODAY** Wolves v Leicester

Ch102 & Ch227, 8.30pm

Liverpool v Crystal Palace Ch102 & Ch227, 11pm

Arsenal v Chelsea Ch102 & Ch227, tomorrow,

Man United v Brighton

Ch103 & Ch228, 11pm Newcastle v Cardiff

Ch104 & Ch229, 11pm Southampton v Everton

Ch105 & Ch230, 11pm

Watford v Burnley Ch106 & Ch231, 11pm

Bournemouth v West Ham Ch107 & Ch232, 11pm

# **TOMORROW**

Huddersfield v Man City Ch102 & Ch227, 9.30pm

Fulham v Tottenham Ch102 & Ch227, 11.55pm

All on Singtel TV & Star Hub

# **STANDINGS**

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P	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
22	18	3	1	50	10	57
22	17	2	3	59	17	53
22	16	0	6	46	22	48
22	14	5	3	40	17	47
22	12	5	5	46	32	41
22	12	5	5	44	32	41
22	9	5	8	32	32	32
22	9	4	9	26	25	31
22	9	4	9	30	32	31
22	8	6	8	33	31	30
22	8	5	9	23	28	29
22	8	3	11	31	42	27
22	7	5	10	24	30	26
22	6	4	12	20	28	22
22	6	3	13	23	43	21
22	4	7	11	23	39	19
22	5	4	13	19	41	19
22	4	6	12	16	31	18
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Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba has been impressive under the guidance of caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and his assistant Michael Carrick (left), scoring four league goals and recording four assists in his last five matches. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Mourinho blames player power, wants top coaching job

LONDON • Jose Mourinho has bemoaned the power wielded by modern players and suggested that clubs ought to be structured to empower managers to deal with it.

Speaking to be IN Sports where he was appearing as an analyst, the former Manchester United manager said: "The phrase I kept with me was when Sir Alex (Ferguson) told me, 'The day a player is more important than the club, goodbye'.

"The manager is there to coach

them. Not to keep discipline at any

Mourinho joined United in May 2016 and was sacked last month after a 3-1 defeat by Premier League leaders Liverpool.

During his tenure, the club won the League Cup and the Europa League, but they made a slow start to this season as the manager fell out with a number of their star players, notably Paul Pogba.

Since Ole Gunnar Solskjaer took

charge until the end of the season, the club have won six games in a row and are now six points off the

top four in the Premier League. Pogba has been instrumental in midfield in that run, while attackers such as Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford have also been playing with a freedom not afforded to them by their former coach.

Mourinho, 55, is understood to have a non-disclosure agreement with the club, which prevents him from discussing the specific circumstances of his departure. But his words will be interpreted by many as a swipe at the United players with whom he clashed.

"In modern football, there is a problem between the coach and the player," he added.

"We are not in a time any more where the coach, by himself, is powerful enough to cope and to have a relationship of education and sometimes confrontation with players

who are not the best professionals.

"A club must be very well organised to cope with these kind of situations, where the manager is only the manager and not the man who is trying to keep the discipline or educate the players.

"The structure must be there to protect the manager and for the players to feel that they are not going to arrive into a situation where they feel more powerful than they used to be."

The former Chelsea, Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto manager ruled himself out of the running for the Benfica job last week but confirmed that he intended to continue managing at a "top level".

"I am too young (to retire). I am in football for a long, long time, but I will be 56 in a couple of weeks and am really too young," he said.

"I want to coach. I belong to toplevel football and that is where I am going to be." THE TIMES, LONDON

# Klopp can shuffle pack at the back despite injuries

LONDON • While an untimely series of injuries has left Jurgen Klopp short-handed at the back, the Liverpool manager knows in Fabinho, he has a player as comfortable in defence as he is in midfield.

Trent Alexander-Arnold joined a growing casualty list after suffering a knee injury during last weekend's 1-0 win at Brighton, and could be out for up to a month. The decision to loan Nathaniel Clyne to Bournemouth for the season has been questioned, with Joe Gomez and Dejan Lovren still working their way back to fitness.

But, while Joel Matip is expected to be back in the squad for today's Premier League game at home to Crystal Palace since fracturing his collarbone during their Champions League win over Napoli on Dec 11, Klopp can afford to resist throwing him into the fray given Fabinho's

"defensive brain". It has taken the Brazil midfielder, signed in the summer for £39 million (S\$68.4 million), time to adapt to English football. He made his league debut only in October, but Klopp never had any doubts the "brilliant player" would become a vital cog as Liverpool chase their



first league title in 29 years.

The German said: "To have a good footballer in that position when you have the ball is great. He

can play in a lot of positions.' The 25-year-old, who was instrumental alongside Virgil van Dijk in defence as the Reds kept a 13th clean sheet in 22 league games at the Amex Stadium to maintain a four-point cushion over champions Manchester City, also saw his

Andy Robertson has committed his next five years to Liverpool after he was awarded a new deal by the club. The Scot has been a key cog in the Reds' defence, while also contributing four assists at the other

end of the pitch. PHOTO: REUTERS

switch to "centre-back coming". He told the club website: "Some weeks ago, I knew this could be an option because we had some players injured. I had some training sessions playing in that position, which helped me adapt better and pick up aspects like positioning and movements.'

Another player who will have a key role in helping the table-toppers maintain the league's best defensive record - only 10 goals conceded - against Roy Hodgson's men is left-back Andy Robertson.

The Scotland captain was rewarded on Thursday with a new contract until 2024, after a string of fine performances to cement his starting position in the team.

Klopp said the 24-year-old, who "screams Liverpool", put pen to paper "in almost record time", and Robertson revealed the decision was a "no-brainer".

He said: "I want to stay. As soon as they put an offer on the table, it was signed as quickly as that." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS

LIVERPOOL V CRYSTAL PALACE Singtel TV Ch102 & StarHub Ch227,

Event	Home	Away	Timing	Venue
	Sat,	19 Jan 2019		
A League	Sydney FC	Newcastle Jets	2.35pm	LW
A League	Melbourne City	Perth Glory	4.50pm	LW
English Premier	Wolverhampton	Leicester	8.30pm	LW/SB
German League	Leverkusen	Monchengladbach	10.30pm	LW/SB
German League	E Frankfurt	Freiburg	10.30pm	LW/SB
English Premier	Liverpool	Crystal Palace	11.00pm	LW/SB
English Premier	Newcastle	Cardiff	11.00pm	LW/SB
English Premier	Manchester Utd	Brighton	11.00pm	LW/SB
Spanish League	Real Madrid	Sevilla	11.15pm	LW/SB
	Sun	20 Jan 2019	7	
English Premier	Arsenal	Chelsea	1.30am	LW/SB
English League Champ	Swansea	Sheffield Utd	1.30am	LW/SB
German League	RB Leipzig	Dortmund	1.30am	LW/SB
Spanish League	Huesca	Atletico Madrid	1.30am	LW/SB
Spanish League	Celta de Vigo	Valencia	3.45am	LW

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Thu, 17 Jan 2019 Draw No. 3441/2019

Group 1 Prize: \$1,172,595 No Winner

Group 1 Prize \$2,400,000 est

Next Draw Mon, 21 Jan 2019 Draw Venue: Singapore Pools (Private) Limited, 210 Middle Road, #01-01, Singapore 188994

to person under the age of 18 years shall be allowed to purchase a ticket

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# **ACQUIRING LAB DATA A** 'MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH'

# Wada retrieves doping data from Russia but experts will take time to verify authenticity

MOSCOW • The World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) says all the doping data from a Moscow laboratory has been "successfully retrieved" by its expert team – but admits that it cannot yet be sure if it is genuine. Wada has been attempting to get its hands on the data since 2015, in order to build cases against thousands of Russian athletes who are suspected of being involved in state-sponsored doping.

Russia has accepted there was extensive doping in the country, but has continued to deny that any of it was state-sponsored.

It had refused to play ball until

Wada's executive committee controversially decided to lift the suspension of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (Rusada) in September.

That decision angered many athletes and anti-doping agencies, and their frustration increased when Russia missed a Dec 31 deadline to let Wada have the data.

However, Wada's three-strong team of experts finally completed their Moscow mission on Thursday and the body's president Craig Reedie hailed the news as a "major breakthrough for clean sport".

He told reporters: "It shows we are continuing to make real progress that simply would not have happened without the Sept 20 ExCo decision.

"The long impasse around access to the former Moscow laboratory has been broken and that is significantly good news."

However, many in the anti-doping world remain sceptical of Russia, with rumours rife the original data may well have been wiped by the authorities.

Reedie admitted to that possibility, adding that Wada would now need to "authenticate and review the data to ensure it is complete and that it has not been compromised". He said: "Given the amount of data, that will take some time to achieve, but our experts have the

tools to be able to verify the data with a high degree of confidence. "Once the data have been authenticated, we will be in a position to proceed to the third phase and support the various sports and other anti-doping organisations con-

cerned to build strong cases against athletes who doped. "And, as part of that, ensure certain samples that are still stored in the Moscow laboratory are reanalysed in an accredited laboratory no

later than June 30, 2019." Rusada could also yet be suspended again because the Russians missed the Dec 31 deadline. The case will be considered by Wada's executive committee on Tuesday. REUTERS, THE GUARDIAN



Qatar's Almoez Ali celebrating with Hassan Al-Haydos after scoring his team's goal in the 2-0 Asian Cup win over Saudi Arabia on Thursday. The Qataris will next face 2007 champions Iraq in the last 16 while the Saudis will take on 2011 winners Japan. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Asian Cup 2019

# Qatar not the favourites, says coach Sanchez

ABU DHABI • Qatar beat Saudi Arabia 2-0 on Thursday to finish top of Group E in an Asian Cup match that garnered more attention for geopolitics than sporting rivalry.

The derby clash was the first time the two sides had met since a bitter political dispute began between the Gulf Arab states 18 months ago.

Saudi Arabia, joined by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain, cut ties with Qatar in June 2017 over allegations it supports terrorism, a charge Doha denies.

Forward Almoez Ali's brace was enough to see off the Green Falcons in front of an almost entirely pro-Saudi 16,067-strong crowd in Abu

Qatar now face 2007 Asian Cup champions Iraq in the knockout stage. Saudi Arabia, group runnersup, meet 2011 champions Japan.

"Every game is going to be hard," Qatar head coach Felix Sanchez told reporters. "We don't consider

ourselves favourites."

Saudi Arabia coach Juan Pizzi criticised his team's poor performance in front of goal and said individual errors cost them a game in which they controlled possession. Forward Fahad Al-Muwallad could have opened the scoring in the 22nd minute when he beat the goalkeeper but was denied by the post.

Qatar had a goal disallowed in a contentious decision in the 59th minute. The video assistant referee

(VAR) system being introduced in the knockout stages could not have

Despite the political context, the match was mostly played in good spirit with the players appearing to be extra polite after committing fouls in the early stages.

But at the end Saudi forward Mohammed Alsaiari was seen pushing some of the celebrating Qataris, gesturing for them to leave the pitch. Pizzi declined to comment on the incident, telling reporters it had "nothing to do with football".

The top two of each of the six four-team groups plus the best four third-placed teams advance to the last 16.

Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Oman and Vietnam have scraped through to join Jordan, Thailand, China, Iran, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Uzbekistan, UAE, South Korea, Oatar and Iraq in the next stage. REUTERS, XINHUA

# LAST 16 Jordan v Vietnam Thailand v China Iran v Oman Japan v Saudi Arabia Australia v Uzbekistan UAE v Kyrgyzstan South Korea v Bahrain Qatar v Iraq

# **InGoodConscience**

# In football rules, spying isn't an offence; getting caught is



**Rob Hughes** 

Have you been following the so-called "Spygate" affair in English football?

If not, maybe you should read no further. It might spoil any notion about fair play and football.

However, I rather imagine that you are acquainted with Derby County's claim that Leeds United stole an unfair advantage by sending someone to spy on their training session before last

weekend's league match. Derby manager Frank Lampard and the media wasted NO opportunity to spin this out as an act of dastardly cheating.

It served as an excuse for the 2-0 defeat Derby received at Elland Road where, for the second time this season, Leeds outplayed and

outclassed them.

The performance left nothing in doubt. Leeds' wisp of a winger Jack Clarke, just 18, was irresistible. He is gifted, supremely balanced, a creative spirit from the academy of the club leading the race for promotion to the English Premier

The difference between the EPL and the euphemistically called "Championship" (Division 2 in old terms) is reckoned to be

£130 million (S\$228 million). So, yes, a manager worth his salt

would seek any edge. Leeds and Derby are desperate to regain the rivalry, the power, they had when Don Revie managed Leeds with ruthless

gamesmanship, and great play. His rival, Brian Clough, managed Derby with unique persuasive charisma. Both clubs overshot their

ambitions, and their means to pay, and almost went bankrupt. Now, as they strive to recapture old glories, Derby bank on Lampard becoming as good a manager as he was a player. And Leeds have gone to Argentina to hire a man who, though he speaks little English, is a

byword in world coaching.

He, Marcelo Bielsa, is reckoned by Pep Guardiola and Mauricio Pochettino to be a grandmaster in their profession. When Bielsa coached Athletic Bilbao against Barcelona in the Spanish King's Cup final, Bielsa sent Guardiola his technical analysis of Barca.

Guardiola messaged back: "You know more about Barcelona than

Knowledge didn't count for much, as Bielsa remembers it. "They were generous with us," he recalls now. "They stopped playing after scoring three goals.'

Another interpretation is that talent trumps tactics, no matter how artful the manager.

Lampard's insinuation that Bielsa cheated led to the headline "Spygate" (borrowed from the US National Football League after the Patriots' head coach Bill Belichick was fined US\$500,000 (S\$678,000) in 2007 for videotaping the Jets' defensive coach signals).

Like Pinocchio's nose, the story grew and grew until Bielsa picked i his own way to pick it. I do this

against all rivals, he said. We watched all their training sessions before we played against them.

In Argentina, this is normal. Yet Lampard, and former players and managers who make a living as pundits, do come across as sanctimonious Britons pointing fingers at foreigners.

The Football Association has opened an investigation. Bielsa

And Lampard, steeped in a pro football family and from a long way back storing knowledge on how to manage the game, would have us believe that he was so focused on propriety that he is shocked to hear of the dubious arts?

pre-empts that by admitting he has spies everywhere. "I did it because it was not illegal or violating specific laws.'

Critics call for Leeds to be penalised enough to jeopardise promotion. Bielsa responds by calling a press conference, and giving the media a 70-minute PowerPoint presentation showing dossiers compiled by 20 staff and amassing hours of data on every game of every opponent in the league.

Espionage contributed little or nothing to what they already knew, even if Derby claim the young man peeping on their preparation through binoculars also had wire cutters.

Why do it?

"Because we feel guilty if we don't work enough," Bielsa said. The obsession with details "helps prevent us from getting over-anxious. We think that by gathering information, we get closer to a win. In my case, it's because I'm stupid enough to allow this kind of (anxious) behaviour". Bielsa is driven, definitely not stupid. He studied agronomy and

physical education after failing to make the grade as a player at Lionel Messi's first club, Newell's Old Boys.

But Lampard claims that he never knew that while he was winning trophies at Chelsea, his manager Jose Mourinho routinely dispatched his assistant Andre Villas-Boas to, ahem, spy on opponents' training.

And Lampard, steeped in a pro football family and from a long way back storing knowledge on how to manage the game, would have us believe that he was so focused on propriety that he is shocked to hear of the dubious arts?

Before the last World Cup, Sweden's coach confessed (when caught) that he sent an aide to spy on South Korea's training sessions. Last month, Werder Bremen admitted they used a drone to watch their German Bundesliga rivals Hoffenheim training.

All terribly un-British, no doubt. Not at all the Corinthian code. But the way the rules are formed, spying is not the offence. Getting caught in the act, apparently is.

stsports@sph.com.sg

# THE STRAITS TIMES ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY PLUS



Nominee #1: Muhammad Jaris Goh (bowling)

# Goh's the glue and the fire too

Bowler is the emotional core of a men's team who are on an upward trajectory

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The team atmosphere is a big part of that success, and a lot of that comes down to Jaris. He's like the fire of the team, if he's pumped up, then the team are pumped up.

**HELMI CHEW**, national bowling head coach, on what Goh brings to the team

**Shamir Osman** 

Muhammad Jaris Goh spun to face his teammates at the Jakabaring Bowling Centre, clenched his fists and screamed "Majulah!". This was a blazing August day in Palembang, and Goh had just led the Republic's men - who have long been overshadowed by their female counterparts – to the trios bronze medal at the Asian Games.

His antics were wildly entertaining for those watching from the sidelines, but they meant much more to the men standing around Goh. Indeed, it is this ability to spark a fire in the bellies of the troops around him that many believe has inspired the bowling men in what was a "superb 2018".

In addition to the Asiad medal, Goh also led the men to a team bronze at the World Men's Championships last month. His ability to inspire a break-

through in the team is a key reason

he is a nominee for The Straits

Times Athlete of the Year award.

"The men haven't produced results for some time, and this group of boys have started to do something, to get the bowling world to sit up and take notice," said national head coach Helmi Chew.

"The team atmosphere is a big part of that success, and a lot of that comes down to Jaris. He's like the fire of the team, if he's pumped up, then the team are pumped up.

"I've had many conversations with him about this, and he's matured a lot. He was that young guy who had many tantrums, he's learnt to control his emotions.

"Last year was a superb year and he's led by example and, more importantly, boosted the morale of the team."

Goh's father Leonard is understandably proud of the young bowler, whose early years he was responsible for.

"Having a strong lower body is important for a bowler. I used to make him do squats if he didn't achieve certain targets in his games and, even as a young boy, he would happily do the squats so he would be allowed to play another game and try again," said the senior Goh, a bowling coach and pro shop operator.

"He never tired of the sport and was always very keen to learn. That was how I knew he would go far. And now, he is part of the backbone of the team and he's helping the younger generation to get to another level – I'm very proud of that," added the 62-year-old.

The award nominee is just delighted that he could play a part in a resurgence in men's bowling.

"The Asian Games was the most satisfying thing in 2018 – we came in with no expectations because we're a new team. It wasn't just about the bronze medal, it was the team spirit, even with the coaches," said the 23-year-old.

"It was a huge breakthrough for us, because Asia has many powerhouses in the sport, and that was when we realised that we could do it – go all the way to the world level.

"That performance put us on the map, made people start to look out for the Singapore men's bowling team, and in that sense that was more important to us than the World Championships."

He is already looking to the fu-

"Several of us will go into fulltime National Service, so the biggest challenge for us now is to stay together. But I believe we can achieve more together – maybe one or two more Asian Games," he said, acutely aware that his team are as important in inspiring him, as he is to the team.

"I'm more of a team player - I enjoy bowling with my teammates than as an individual. They know that I'm the one who starts the engine, so they pump me up too, it's a team thing. That's the part of bowling that I really do enjoy, and want to continue."

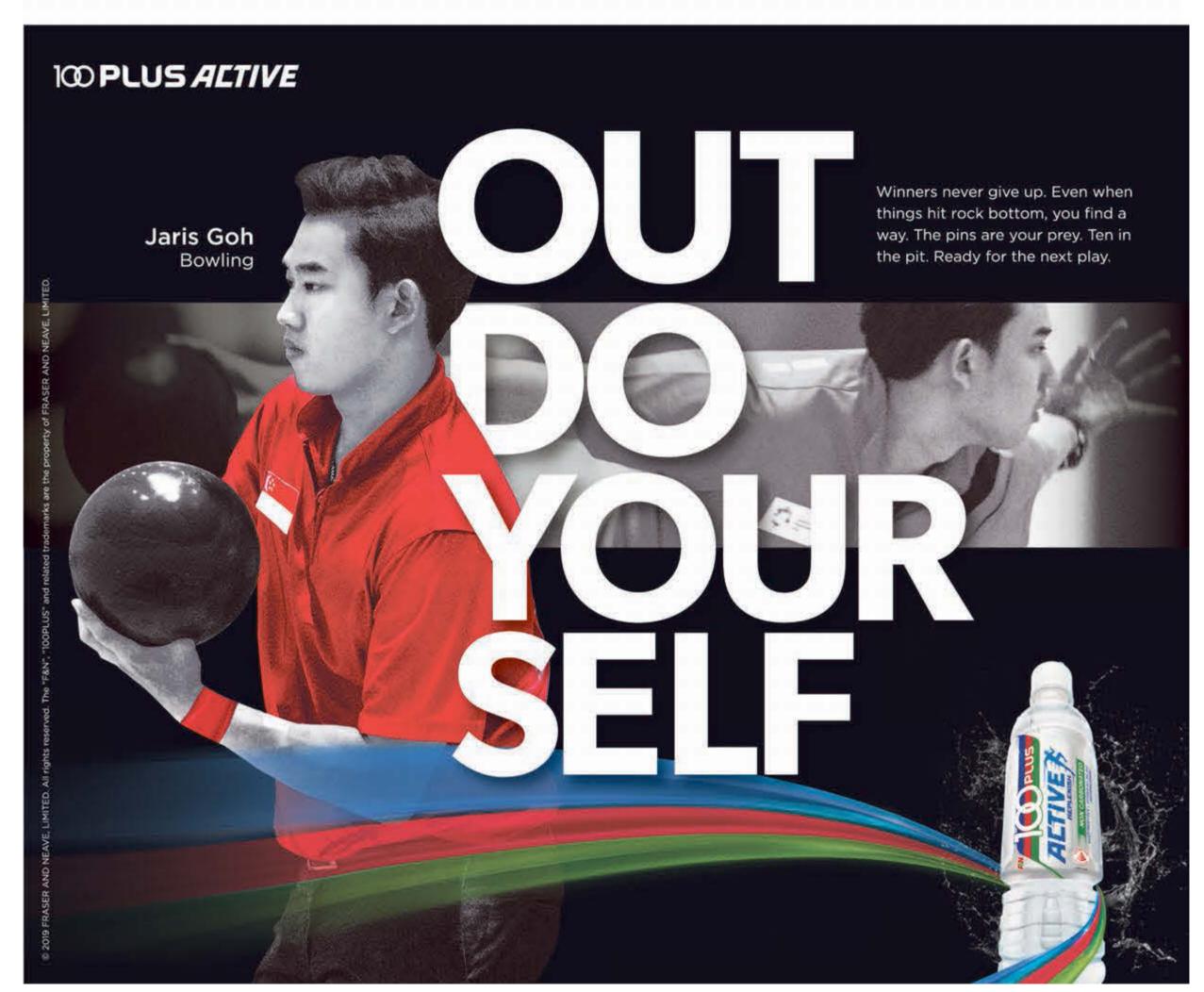
stsports@sph.com.sg

SCAN TO WATCH ST Athlete Of The Year nominee: Jaris Goh: str.sq/jaris





Muhammad Jaris Goh's big personality has rubbed off on his teammates, with the group winning bronzes at the Asian Games and the World Championships owing largely to their strong team spirit. ST PHOTO: JASMINE CHOONG



# SAME OLD ROGER FEDERER

# Swiss great, 37, has no plans to retire, relishes an 'attacking' clash with youngster Tsitsipas

MELBOURNE • Roger Federer has no intention of sending his fans into mourning by thinking about retiring from tennis as his "lights are on green".

He is chasing a hat-trick of titles, and his seventh, at the Australian Open, and he showed his form and fitness yesterday with a comfortable straight-sets win over 21-yearold American Taylor Fritz.

After advancing to the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the 64th time with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 victory, the 37-year-old claimed he had absolutely "no complaints and no plans"

to hang up his racket.

He said: "I'm injury-free, enjoying myself. The kids are having a great time too on the (ATP) Tour.

"My wife's happy. I'm just happy where I am in my life, in my career right now."

Based on the evidence at Melbourne Park, the Swiss remains on another level and welcomes the challenge from any of the young contenders who are increasingly making their presence felt.

Tomorrow, he will test himself against one of the best of the rising prospects, Stefanos Tsitsipas, who

is the Next Generation champion.

The world No. 15 had earlier joked he would be "thrilled" to play Federer next and fought hard to get past Georgian Nikoloz Basilashvili in five sets.

"If I had known that Roger was 2-0 up when I said that, I probably wouldn't have said it," the 20-yearold Greek, who played against Federer in the Hopman Cup earlier this month, admitted afterwards.

"I learnt a lot since my last match with him. I know the patterns that he's using a bit better now.

"He's serving really well, I'm pretty sure he's going to be serving well (in the next match), so the return games need to be aggressive and pressing a lot.

"He's a legend of our sport. It will

be a great day facing him in one of the best arenas, Rod Laver. I'm really excited for that match."

Recalling the match in which he needed two tie-breaks to win to take his country through to the Cup final, Federer revealed respect was mutual ahead of their match-up, which will be only the second time the duo have faced each other.

The former world No. 1 told reporters: "I'm happy I played against him at the Hopman Cup (in Perth).

"He played really well there. It was really high-quality tennis. This is obviously a different type of match, it being best of five, and the fourth round of a Slam.

"I like how he mixes up his game and also comes to the net. So will I. We will see some athletic, attacking tennis being played."

Like Federer, Rafael Nadal also had to face another young gun in 19-year-old Alex de Minaur in the third round and, in a carbon copy of his rival's display, the Spaniard put on a masterclass to brush aside the Australian 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

While there were doubts over his fitness after he pulled out of his Brisbane warm-up with a thigh niggle, his fitness has yet to be called into question, and Nadal fired a warning at Czech Tomas Berdych, his opponent tomorrow, that he was getting "a little bit better" every day.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, THE GUARDIAN

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN** Day 6: Singtel TV Ch114/115 & StarHub

Ch208/209,8am & 4pm

# **SELECTED DAY 5 RESULTS**

# MEN, 3RD RD

Marin Cilic (Cro) bt Fernando Verdasco (Esp) 4-6 3-6 6-1 7-6(10-8) 6-3, Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) bt Karen Khachanov (Rus) 6-47-56-4, Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt Andreas Seppi (Ita) 6-7(3-7) 6-3 4-6 6-4 6-3, Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) 6-3 3-67-6(9-7) 6-4, Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt Thomas Fabbiano (Ita) 7-6(7-5) 6-4 6-4, Tomas Berdych (Cze) bt Diego Schwartzman (Arg) 5-76-37-56-4.

# WOMEN, 3RD RD

Petra Kvitova (Cze) bt Belinda Bencic (Sui) 6-16-4, Amanda Anisimova (USA) bt Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) 6-3 6-2, Danielle Collins (USA) bt Caroline Garcia (Fra) 6-3 6-2, Angelique Kerber (Ger) bt Kimberly Birrell (Aus) 6-1 6-0. REUTERS





The tenacity of Maria Sharapova's (left) game was on full display yesterday when the Russian won 17 of the 23 rallies that went over nine shots against Australian Open defending champion Caroline Wozniacki (above). She beat the Dane 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 and will next face local favourite Ash Barty in the fourth round. PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, EPA-EFE

# **SportingLife**

# Sharapova's upset of Wozniacki sends serious message



# **Rohit Brijnath**

Assistant Sports Editor In Melbourne

Sport is fun but apparently no one told Maria Sharapova. Fun is not in her lexicon, certainly not on court. Fun may be what Amanda Anisimova said she had as she upset : 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in 144 marvellous

No. 11 seed Aryna Sabalenka but she's 17 and carefree. Sharapova is 31 and on court is a well-coiffed grim reaper. Tennis for her is gritty, sweaty work, it's a hard-edged duel, it's unsmiling hand-to-hand combat.

It is, well, fun to watch. This wasn't a game yesterday, this was serious business. This was Sharapova asserting that neither a drug suspension nor age nor any cynicism about her had beaten her down. Nothing was going to fell her. Not even Caroline Wozniacki.

The Russian, world No. 30, beat the Danish defending champion and world No. 3 in three, taut sets,

minutes. In the first set she was down 1-4 and won five straight games, almost seeming to hit every successive shot harder. Joe Frazier would have grunted in approval.

Later, when Sharapova arrived in the interview room, she was asked how the win felt, to which she replied: "It was a good win. I feel pretty happy about it. Even wearing a crop top. I'm really happy. I don't pull those out often."

Reporters laughed, she smiled. Was this really fun? Maybe. But clearly not as much as when she is belting opponents.

Since 2015 Sharapova has won one WTA title and it's the sort of thing which makes people talk. Makes them think she's fading, just a used-to-be-champion with an impressive injury collection. Maybe even she doubted herself, as older players must, but then they return like disciplined athletic monks to their daily prayer.

Practice. Asked the reason for her improved return of serve, for instance, Sharapova replied: "Lots of practice." And then added: "I think that's the one thing that was tough for me to get back, the hand-eye coordination, after not playing for a long time. The return, the anticipation. Those are the

types of things that I think you lose being away from the game."

The match was a physical contest between two women, 31 and 28, who have taken varied journeys through tennis. Wozniacki won her first Slam last year at 27, Sharapova at 17 in 2004. Wozniacki is a runner who has shrugged off passivity while Sharapova hits the ball as if she plays in a ring not a court. And both have a small history of verbal conflict.

Wozniacki complained at the 2017 US Open about Sharapova returning from a drug suspension and getting centre court time while the Russian's agent called the Dane a "journeyman" player. The first point was not unreasonable, the second insult was uncalled for.

People relish these spicy side stories but players don't live in a Hollywood script about vengeance. They're professionals who dismiss trivial distraction and come armed with resilience and a plan. Revenge

wins nothing, only running does. Both women were asked yesterday about whether past jibes had intruded on the present battle. Said Wozniacki: "We are competitors. We both try our hardest when we're out there." Said Sharapova with a straight face: "I just really like winning."

Not everyone likes Sharapova and there is no law requiring one to. You don't have to like the grunt that commenced from the second shot of the match. Don't have to like her cold manner on court, if that's how you see it. Don't have to like a player who endured a drug suspension.

But there's an undeniable beauty to her undiluted rage to be better. Better than she ever was, if

Not everyone likes Sharapova and there is no law requiring one to. You don't have to like the grunt that commenced from the second shot of the match. Don't have to like a player who endured a drug suspension. But there's an undeniable beauty to her undiluted rage to be better.

possible. Better than she was in the previous point. Better than the opponent on the other side of the net, whoever she is, whatever the match. Better by even just a shot. And she was.

Yesterday, against Wozniacki, who is a sort of one-woman resistance movement at the baseline, Sharapova won 17 of the 23 rallies that went over nine shots. "Those were the rallies she used to win in the old days," said Sharapova. For an apparently slowed-down, tennis old-timer, this wasn't too bad.

Over three sets yesterday, Sharapova struck 37 winners (Wozniacki, 10) and won 59 per cent of second-serve points (Wozniacki, 35 per cent), but her favourite number must be four. Which is now the round she's in where she faces Ash Barty.

The crowd adores Barty because she's Australian, left tennis to play cricket and then returned to the sport where she charms people with her sweet-slicing, net-rushing

Barty is 22 and she makes tennis fun. Sigh. Just the sort of thing to make Sharapova raise an imperious eyebrow and lift her game.

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# A Game of Two Halves

It's an action-packed episode, with Loh Kean Yew's giant-killing act, Ikhsan Fandi's Norwegian career, Andy Murray's retirement and David de Gea's heroics. http://str.sg/ousA





# A step at a time for Pacquiao in Las Vegas return

LAS VEGAS • Manny Pacquiao is aiming to offer fresh evidence that life begins at 40 when the Filipino boxing great takes on American Adrien Broner today (tomorrow morning, Singapore time).

Pacquiao, who celebrated his 40th birthday last month with a lavish party in the Philippines, will defend his World Boxing Association regular welterweight crown against Broner at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in what will be his first Las Vegas bout for more than two years.

The last time he fought in the boxing capital of the world was in November 2016, when he squared off against American Jessie Vargas, winning by unanimous decision.

Since then, his career has followed an uncertain trajectory, with a highly contestable loss to Australian Jeff Horn in Brisbane in 2017 followed by a year-long absence from the ring.

However, Pacquiao (60 wins, 39 coming by way of knockout and seven losses) made a triumphant return in Kuala Lumpur last July, scoring his first knockout victory in six years over Lucas Matthysse.

His stoppage of the Argentinian paved the way for the showdown with 29-year-old Broner, who boasts of a 33-win record, with 24 knockouts and only three losses.

While many observers view the fight as a stepping stone towards a

possible rematch with Floyd Mayweather following their moneyspinning 2015 fight, Pacquiao is looking no further than the contest with Broner as he intends to "maintain his name at the top".

"My plan is one at a time," the eight-division world champion told Agence France-Presse.

"I cannot say about the future until Ian 19. Leave it as a question mark for now." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

# Sunday's Hong Kong (Sha Tin) form analysis

# **BEAUTY GENERATION LOOKS A** SHOO-IN



No horse has come close to matching Beauty Generation in the mile ranks this term and he will likely start shortest-priced favourite of the season in tomorrow's Race 7 at Sha Tin. PHOTO: HKJC

## **RACE1(1,400M)**

4 Guy Dragon ran on nicely last time out for fourth behind Tornado Twist, a subsequent winner up in grade. He looks to have talent and this is not a tremendously difficult affair, so he's worth a play.

1 Khaki has raced consistently since joining Tony Millard's yard. He has a wide gate to overcome, but he should relish the 1,400m now.

**7 Enjoy Life** has drawn well and is always capable in races like these. He's in the mix.

**2 Picken** is likely to go off under the odds again. He's a chance, no doubt. But, if he's too short, it's worth looking for one to beat him.

## **RACE 2 (1,600M)**

RACE1

4 I Do ran okay on debut, well enough that he was supported heavily last time out before finishing third to Pearl Champion. The stepup to a mile suits and, even with the outside gate, he's a leading player.

**5 My Winner** has put together a string of minor placings. He again has to contend with a bad gate but should be around the mark.

10 Majestic Endeavour steps up from Class 5, having won nicely last time out. It looked like he was primed for that race, so it's possible he takes a step forward now back up in grade.

13 Alcazar, who was second on that occasion, can't be dismissed with no weight on his back.

# **RACE 3 (1,800M)**

3 Helene Leadingstar steps up to 1,800m at his third Hong Kong start. His last effort was better than it looks on paper, making up nice ground late after striking trouble in the middle stages. The South Australian Derby winner probably wants further than the 1,800m already but this looks a suitable race.

5 Ho Ho Khan has won his last two starts in Class 3 to put him up into this grade. He needs to take another step forward now but he's one to watch, with the Hong Kong Derby on his radar should he perform well.

9 Nicconi Express won nicely over a mile last time out after two placings over 1,400m. The logical step is up to 1,800m now, but there must be some query on him over this trip. He may be worth opposing.

2 Savvy Six has not raced since April. His pre-race antics became something of an attraction last season but he looks a little more switched on now after time spent at Conghua and he's one to watch

# **RACE 4 (1,200M)**

**9 Ezra** was forced wide last time out but made up some ground late to finish fourth to Invincible Missile at his racetrack debut. He has another awkward draw but is a player in this spot.

HO HO KHAN

LAND GRANT

RACE 4

GRAND CHANCELLOR IMPERIAL GALLANTRY both starts. He looks like he should relish the 1,200m now, although his dam Coco Kerringle was a type who looked in need of further but struggled once up past 1,100m.

**2 Full Of Beauty** just won at his first start — a shade luckily, too, as Lakeshore Eagle was gobbling him up. He has to overcome gate 11 but should take improvement from that first start.

**4 Eptiwins** is improving all the time and his last-start second to Dancing Fighter was very good. The booking of Hugh Bowman is notable and he's not without a chance.

## **RACE 5 (1,200M)**

The first four home in the Hong Kong Sprint look the ones to beat, even with the emergence of threeyear-old Styling City on the scene. **2 D B Pin** is back to defend his title,

having raced only twice since. He was disappointing first-up in the Jockey Club Sprint before running a game second in the Hong Kong Sprint last time out. He should be approaching full fitness now and is going to be the one to beat.

**3 Beat The Clock** is still yet to crack it at Group 1 level, having recorded two seconds and two thirds in this company. He is capable of matching these on his day though, as seen over the past year. It's only a matter of time before he breaks through.

1 Mr Stunning turned back the **5 Fabulous Eight** has placed in clock with back-to-back wins in the

G VAN NIEKERK

M CHADWICK

C Y HO D WHYTE

M F POON

120 119 119

119 119 118

CLASS 4 TURF - 1200n

10

Hong Kong Sprint. He failed by a neck to beat his then-stablemate D B Pin 12 months ago and he should have every chance to turn the ta-

5 Little Giant can run another bold race, having finished fourth in the Hong Kong Sprint last time out.

10 Penang Hall was sent out at a ridiculous 134-1 last time out and was far from disgraced, finishing sixth. He looked in need of that run and, now that he's stepping out a little bit fitter, he's a value proposition in this spot.

**5 Super Giant** has disappointed in two starts since running home powerfully on debut. He is often his own worst enemy but he steps out for his new trainer Caspar Fownes and must be given respect.

**6 Famous Warrior** seems to have forgotten how to win, often looming up but struggling to follow through. He's a place chance. 8 Last Kingdom needs to settle. If

he does, he can get into the finish.

1 Beauty Generation is likely to start the shortest-priced favourite of the season, and deservedly so. No horse has come close to matching him in the mile ranks this term, winning his four starts by a combined  $8^{3}/4$  lengths.

**2 Pakistan Star** is on trial for Dubai.

There's little doubt that he hasn't been the same horse in the early part of the season but, hopefully, he's freshened up well. If so, he should be running second.

**6 Conte** is the emerging force on the scene. He is still only a lightweight Group 3 handicap winner, though, so this is a significant stepup. He can fight out for second.

4 Southern Legend should enjoy getting back to a mile. He'll be another in contention for second.

## **RACE 8 (1,000M)**

3 California Archer has run well in both starts for Tony Cruz, including a last-start second to I Am Power. He should be hard to beat in this spot from a better draw.

6 Happy Victory comes through the I Am Power race. He will be improved with a start under his belt. 8 Hair Trigger is always capable of rattling home with even luck over this track and trip.

5 Explosive Witness has had plenty of issues since arriving in Hong Kong 18 months ago. The winner of his only start at Moonee Valley in Australia almost two years ago, he's worth including in all exotics fresh.

# **RACE 9 (1,400M)**

**2 Marzouq** has raced only once this season, finishing seventh over a mile in November. Fresh, he is worth a play.

CLASS 3 TURE - 1600m 10 CHEEKY BEE

5 Noble Steed ran on last start, although perhaps he wasn't at his best at a mile. Coming back to 1,400m looks a good move and he should enjoy the run of the race.

6 Not Usual Talent ran well enough on debut over 1,200m. He has the outside gate to overcome, but the 1,400m should suit and he's capable of getting into the placings. 1 Kingsfield drops back into Class 3 and bears close watching.

# **RACE 10 (1,400M)**

12 Glorious Spectrum has to contend with a wide gate yet again. But he's a horse with plenty of talent, having run well in both starts. The former Italian looks to be heading in the right direction and is bound for the Four-Year-Old Classic Series after this. He can win, even from the draw.

11 Waikuku, another classic contender, looks to still have plenty of points in hand. He's the one to beat, although he's likely to be far shorter in betting than Glorious Spectrum.

9 Mission Tycoon steps up to 1,400m for the first time. He's sure to run a bold race.

10 My Darling was beaten as second favourite in this race two years ago. He's likely headed for Class 3, but he's capable of getting into the placings at odds.

Comments courtesy of The Hong Kong Jockey Club

**G VAN NIEKERK** 

**119** 3

**DEFERRARIS** 

# **SUNDAY'S HONG KONG (SHA TIN) RACE CARD**

CLASS 4 TURF - 1400m

lo.	Horse Name	Trainer	Jockey	wt(lb) Bar
	KHAKI	A T MILLARD	S DE SOUSA	<b>133</b> 14
	PICKEN	JSIZE	J MOREIRA	<b>133</b> 11
	SAM'S LOVE	CHYIP	Z PURTON	<b>131</b> 12
	GUY DRAGON	WYSO	C SCHOFIELD	<b>130</b> 10
	RULETHEROOST	FCLOR	A SANNA	<b>129</b> 2
•	WINWIN	T P YUNG	M L YEUNG	<b>126</b> 6
	ENJOY LIFE	Y S TSUI	KTEETAN	<b>125</b> 5
	WICKER	R GIBSON	N CALLAN	125 7
	SUREWIN	C W CHANG	K C LEUNG	124 4
0	DESTIN	P O'SULLIVAN	S CLIPPERTON	123 8 123 1
1 2	EMPIRE STAR BLIZZING AWAY	J MOORE P F YIU	D WHYTE C MURRAY	118 3
3	BIG BULLY	DJHALL	M F POON	115 9
3 4	CARE FREE PRINCE	KLMAN	C WONG	115 9 115 13
	CE 2 ME : 1:30		CLASS 4 TU	RF - 1600m K\$920,000
ııı	/IE : 1:3U		Stakes: n	<b>N</b> \$320,000
lo.	Horse Name	Trainer	Jockey	wt(lb) Bar
	CHATER THUNDER	D E FERRARIS	N CALLAN	131 4
	EVER LAUGH	KLMAN	K C LEUNG	<b>131</b> 7
	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY	KLMAN FCLOR	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA	131 7 130 10
	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO	KLMAN FCLOR WYSO	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON	131 7 130 10 130 14
	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO MY WINNER	K L MAN F C L OR W Y S O P F Y I U	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13
	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES	KLMAN FCLOR WYSO PFYIU TPYUNG	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9
	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST	KLMAN FCLOR WYSO PFYIU TPYUNG KLMAN	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9 129 5
	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA	KL MAN F CLOR W Y SO P F YIU T P YUNG KL MAN Y S TSUI	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA M F POON	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2
	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING	KL MAN FCLOR W Y SO PF YIU T P YUNG KL MAN Y S TSUI C W CHANG	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA M F POON H N WONG	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6
3	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR	KL MAN FCLOR WYSO PF YIU T P YUNG KL MAN Y S TSUI C W CHANG C FOWNES	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA MF POON H N WONG C SCHOFIELD	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 129 2 122 6 122 3
3 0 1	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY I DO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR SWOT WINDICATOR	KL MAN FCLOR W Y SO PF YIU T P YUNG KL MAN Y S TSUI C W CHANG C FOWNES D J HALL	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA M F POON H N WONG C SCHOFIELD C Y HO	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6 122 3 122 1
3 0 0 1 2	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY IDO MY WINNER FUIL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR SWOT WINDICATOR VICTORIOUS LEADER	KL MAN FCLOR VSO PFYIU TPYUNG KL MAN YSTSUI C W CHANG C FOWNES D J HALL C H YIP	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA M F POON H N WONG C SCHOFIELD C Y HO U RISPOLI	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6 122 3 122 1 122 12
00112233	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY IDO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR SWOT WINDICATOR VICTORIOUS LEADER ALCAZAR	KLMAN FCLOR WYSO PFYIU TPYUNG KLMAN YSTSUI CWCHANG CFOWNES D JHALL CHYING JMOORE	K C LEUNG SDE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA MF POON HN WONG C SCHOFIELD C Y HO U RISPOLI D WHYTE	131 7 130 10 130 14 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6 122 3 122 1
8 8 9 0 1 1 2 3 4	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY IDO MY WINNER FUIL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR SWOT WINDICATOR VICTORIOUS LEADER	KL MAN FCLOR VSO PFYIU TPYUNG KL MAN YSTSUI C W CHANG C FOWNES D J HALL C H YIP	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA M F POON H N WONG C SCHOFIELD C Y HO U RISPOLI	131 7 130 10 130 13 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6 122 3 122 1 122 12 119 8 118 11
8 8 9 0 1 1 2 3 4	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY IDO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR SWOT WINDICATOR VICTORIOUS LEADER ALCAZAR GORGEOUS AGAIN CE 3	KLMAN FCLOR WYSO PFYIU TPYUNG KLMAN YSTSUI CWCHANG CFOWNES D JHALL CHYING JMOORE	K C LEUNG S DE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA M F POON H N WONG C SCHOFIELD C Y HO U RISPOLI D WHYTE K TEETAN  CLASS 2 TU	131 7 130 10 130 13 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6 122 3 122 1 122 12 119 8 118 11
β β β β β β β β β β β β β β β β β β β	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY IDO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR SWOOT WINDICATOR VICTORIOUS LEADER ALCAZAR GORGEOUS AGAIN CE 3 //E: 2:00 Horse Name	KL MAN FCLOR WYSO PFYIU TPYUNG KL MAN YSTSUI C WCHANG CFOWNES D J HALL C H YIP J MOORE C S S HUM	K CLEUNG SDE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA M F POON H N WONG C SCHOFIELD C Y HO U RISPOLI D WHYTE K TEETAN  CLASS 2 TU Stakes: HKS	131 7 130 10 130 13 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6 122 3 122 1 122 12 119 8 118 11  RF - 1800m \$1,950,000  wt(lb) Bar
ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο	EVER LAUGH FLAME LILY IDO MY WINNER FULL OF CHANCES GREAT HARVEST STRAPPING BAUHINIA KEEP WINNING MAJESTIC ENDEAVOUR SWOT WINDICATOR VICTORIOUS LEADER ALCAZAR GORGEOUS AGAIN CE 3 ME: 2:00	KLMAN FCLOR WYSO PFYIU TPYUNG KLMAN YSTSUI CWCHANG CFOWNES D JHALL CHYING JMOORE CSSHUM	K CLEUNG SDE SOUSA Z PURTON J MOREIRA G VAN NIEKERK A SANNA MF POON HN WONG C SCHOFIELD C Y HO U RISPOLI D WHYTE K TEETAN  CLASS 2 TU Stakes: HKS	131 7 130 10 130 13 130 13 129 9 129 5 129 2 122 6 122 3 122 1 122 12 119 8 118 11  RF - 1800m \$1,950,000

No.	Horse Name	Trainer	Jockey	wt(lb)	Bar
l	CHARIZARD	D E FERRARIS	N CALLAN	128	14
2	FULL OF BEAUTY	JSIZE	J MOREIRA	127	11
3	GALLANT SPIRIT	C W CHANG	C SCHOFIELD	126	7
1	EPTIWINS	LHO	H BOWMAN	124	4
5	FABULOUS EIGHT	PFYIU	U RISPOLI	124	5
5	COOLCELEB	TPYUNG	M L YEUNG	121	12
7	CRAIG'S STAR	CSSHUM	S DE SOUSA	121	2
3	EMPIRE OF PATCH	JMOORE	S CLIPPERTON	121	1
)	EZRA	A T MILLARD	KTEETAN	121	10
0	HAPPY ALUMNI	KWLUI	M CHADWICK	121	3
1	PERFECT PAIR	WYSO	D WHYTE	121	13
2	YEE CHEONG PEGASUS	DJHALL	CYHO	121	6
l3	GREAT VICTORY	CHYIP	M F POON	119	8
	FLYING LOVER	YSTSUI	G VAN NIEKERK	118 DE 120	
	FLYING LOVER CE 5 1E: 3:00	YSTSUI		RF - 120	
RA	CE5	Y S TSUI	G1TU	RF - 120	0r 00
RA(TIN	CE 5 ME: 3:00 Horse Name	Trainer	G1TU Stakes: HK\$1 Jockey	RF - 120 0,000,0 wt(lb)	01 00 Bar
RA( TIN No.	CE5 1E:3:00 Horse Name MR STUNNING	Trainer F C L O R	G1TU Stakes: HK\$1 Jockey	RF - 120 0,000,0 wt(lb)	01 00 Bai
RA( TIN No.	CE 5 AE: 3:00 Horse Name MR STUNNING DB PIN	Trainer F C L OR J SIZE	G1TU Stakes: HK\$1  Jockey  K TEETAN S CLIPPERTON	RF - 120 0,000,0 wt(lb)	01 00 Bai
RACTIN	CE5 1E:3:00 Horse Name MR STUNNING	Trainer F C L O R	G1TU Stakes: HK\$1 Jockey	RF - 120 0,000,0 wt(lb)	01 00 Bai
RACTIN	CE 5 1E: 3:00 Horse Name MR STUNNING DB PIN BEAT THE CLOCK	Trainer FCLOR JSIZE JSIZE	G1TU Stakes: HK\$1 Jockey KTEETAN SCLIPPERTON J MOREIRA	RF - 120 0,000,0 wt(lb)	01 00 Bai
RA(	CE 5 AE: 3:00 Horse Name MR STUNNING D B PIN BEAT THE CLOCK FIFTY FIFTY	Trainer FCLOR JSIZE JSIZE LHO	G1TU Stakes: HK\$1 Jockey  KTEETAN SCLIPPERTON JMOREIRA H BOWMAN	RF - 120 0,000,0 wt(lb) 126 126 126 126	01 00 Bai 5 7 4 2 3
RACTIN	TE: 3:00  Horse Name  MR STUNNING DB PIN BEAT THE CLOCK FIFTY FIFTY LITTLE GLANT	Trainer FCLOR JSIZE JSIZE LHO DJHALL	G1TU Stakes: HK\$1  Jockey  K TEETAN S CLIPPERTON J MOREIRA H BOWMAN Z PURTON	RF - 120 0,000,0 wt(lb) 126 126 126 126 126	01 00

**DEFERRARIS** 

PO'SULLIVAN

AT MILLARD

DJHALL

	TE:3:35			\$1,380,000	11 12 13	MASTER ALBERT WINNING WAYS DIAMOND DRAGON	WYSO CHYIP KWLUI	C SCHOFIELD M CHADWICK K TEETAN	118 2 116 1 114 11
No.	Horse Name	Trainer	Jockey	wt(lb) Bar	14	DIAMOND MASTER	KHTING	M L YEUNG	114 4
1 2 3 4 5	COMFORT LIFE TASHIDELEK MAGNETISM SACRED IBIS SUPER GIANT	F C LOR K H TING D E FERRARIS P O'SULLIVAN C FOWNES	G VAN NIEKERK H BOWMAN C MURRAY D WHYTE Z PURTON	131 13 130 10 127 12 127 5 127 4		CE 9 ME : 5:15		CLASS 3 TU Stakes: HK\$	
6 7	FAMOUS WARRIOR KING PRINT	A S CRUZ C H YIP	A SANNA U RISPOLI	<b>126</b> 1 <b>125</b> 11	No.	Horse Name	Trainer	Jockey	wt(lb) Bar
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	LAST KINGDOM HIGH VOLATILITY PENANG HALL GREAT TREASURE KIRAM TURF SPRINT UNICRON JEWELLERY	PO'SULLIVAN KWLUI DJHALL YS TSUI DEFERRARIS WYSO JSIZE	S DE SOUSA K C LEUNG N CALLAN M L YEUNG M CHADWICK H N WONG J MOREIRA	124 3 123 6 123 2 122 14 118 8 118 9 118 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	KINGSFIELD MARZOUQ BEAUTY SPIRIT WINNING ENDEAVOUR NOBLE STEED NOT USUAL TALENT BIZ POWER MAGNIFICENT SUN TOUCH	R GIBSON J SIZE A S CRUZ K L MAN K W LUI T P YUNG W Y SO L HO C S SHUM	H BOWMAN J MOREIRA C Y HO N CALLAN S DE SOUSA U RISPOLI D WHYTE M F POON M L YEUNG	132 7 132 2 131 9 128 6 127 4 125 14 124 3 124 8 124 10
	CE 7			RF - 1600m	10 11	SUPER HERO KASI FARASI	YSTSUI KHTING	A SANNA Z PURTON	<b>123</b> 13 <b>122</b> 1
TIN	1E : 4:05		Stakes: HK\$	10,000,000	12	IRISH VEGA	CHYIP	H N WONG	<b>121</b> 11
No.	Horse Name	Trainer	Jockey	wt(lb) Bar	13 14	AMAZING WITNESS HUNTER	D E FERRARIS F C LOR	G VAN NIEKERK K TEETAN	<b>120</b> 5 <b>116</b> 12
1 2 3 4 5	BEAUTY GENERATION PAKISTAN STAR BEAUTY ONLY SOUTHERN LEGEND NORTHERN SUPERSTAR CONTE	JMOORE A S CRUZ A S CRUZ C FOWNES A T MILLARD JSIZE	Z PURTON S DE SOUSA H BOWMAN D WHYTE K TEETAN J MOREIRA	126 5 126 6 126 3 126 4 126 1		CE 10 ME : 5:50 Horse Name	Trainer	CLASS 2 TU Stakes: HKS	
	CE 8 1E : 4:40			RF - 1000m \$1,380,000	1 2 3 4 5	WORLD RECORD DRAGON GENERAL RIVET REGENCY BO BO TAKING AIM	A T MILLARD Y S TSUI C FOWNES C S SHUM J MOORE	K TEETAN C SCHOFIELD D WHYTE C WONG Z PURTON	133 1 130 11 130 14 127 7 124 3
No.	Horse Name	Trainer	Jockey	wt(lb) Bar	6	HINCHINLOVE	WYS0	K C LEUNG	<b>123</b> 5
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	IAM POWER FAIRY TWINS CALIFORNIA ARCHER SPEEDY KING EXPLOSIVE WITNESS HAPPY VICTORY CEREFINO HAIR TRIGGER THE ONE	L HO W Y SO A S CRUZ PF YIU C FOWNES T P YUNG W Y SO J MOORE Y S TSUI	H BOWMAN M F POON J MOREIRA K C LEUNG C Y HO Z PURTON A SANNA D WHYTE H N WONG	133 7 130 6 129 10 129 13 128 8 128 5 126 12 125 14 125 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	KING OF HEARTS INFINITY ENDEAVOUR MISSION TYCOON MY DARLING WAIKUKU GLORIOUS SPECTRUM MR GENUINE WON WON TOO	A S CRUZ J SIZE F C LOR T P YUNG J SIZE F C LOR D J HALL C H YIP	S DE SOUSA M CHADWICK C Y HO M L YEUNG J MOREIRA U RISPOLI M F POON G VAN NIEKERK	123 4 122 6 122 9 120 2 120 8 119 13 118 12 118 10

8 3434 Marina 55.5 [7] H Grace-3:0 5.1% Hickmott 8.3% 9 0745 Miss Identified 55.5 [1] Chan-2:0 9.3% T Doudle 12.2% Bet With Care. Helpline: 1800-6-668-668

## 19-01-19 SATURDAY - AUSTRALIA RACE CARD By Singapore Pools 9 6313 Zalmona 10 x514 Castelo AUSTRALIA FEED: ROSEHILL/ FLEMINGTON/ MORPHETTVILLE/ ASCOT (#OTH2) 11 8x72 Intuition 58.0 [17] C Williams 13.5% Cumming 17.8% 12 2846 Picture Me Rolli 54.5 57.0 [8] L Currie 11.3% Zahra 12.2% 13 73x3 Light The Woves 54.0 [9] R Clark-1.5 15.3% Stephens 19.6% 13 73x3 Light The Waves 54.0 14 6x56 Artistic Design 54.0 15 2871 Jackthegiantsla 54.0 RHIL--1400m Race 4 01:00PM (A\$125,000) 0.0% Bateman 11.9% 1 4556 King's Comman 60.0 [1] C W 6 x093 Ever So Natural 57.0 [1] R Dolan-2.0 10.0% T Bartley 14.5% 7 480x Sanctioned 57.0 [3] C Brown 14.0% D Pfieffer 13.1% FLEM--1400m 10.0% T Bartley 14.5% 12 21°D6 Exceltora 57.0 8 L Currie 13.3% Zahra 12.2% Abra 10.0% D Pfieffer 13.1% 13 18x0 Bord De Goin 56.0 15 R Bayliss 11.8% Kavanag 16.8% 12.3% J Pride 15.2% 14 1731 Columbia 56.0 15 14 J Kah 17.5% Clarken 19.3% 8.4% G Lukss 7.0% 15 11x2 Langhro 54.0 56 6 D Dunn 12.7% M Price 17.2% M Price 17.2% M Price 17.2% Richards 9.9% 11.1% Jeffriess 9.7% 15 5004 Frankel My Dea 54.0 51 15 M Price 12.2% Richards 9.9% R Laing 8.9% 13.5% **Corstens** 11.8% 10.6% **M Kent** 15.0% 10.0% Bateman 11.9% [1] C Williams [8] M Poy-3.0 8 66x5 Our Mantra [2] J Collett [7] B Ryan 12.3% J Pride 15.2% 311 Hit The Target .8% Jones 17.2% **16** 7203 **Superveloce** K Jennings G Schofield 3 59x7 Heptagon [4] M Zahra 12.6% M Price R Laing 8.9% Race 14 04:35PM (A\$70,000) ASCT--1800m VROY Plot The Course FLEM--1800m Race 11 03:15PM (A\$125,000) **Race 8 02:20PM** (A\$125,000) **RHIL--1500m** 1 6570 Prying Tom 2 6312 Fontaineble 16.3% Mcdonald 12.5% 13.3% Eustace 20.4% T Clark 11.3% Crockett 1 6601 Jerilderie Letter 60.0 [14] Riordan-3.0 x513 **A Snip Of Cyndy** 56.0 7.8% R Butler 59.5 [9] C Williams 59.0 [11] L Meech 61.5 [3] **B Ryan**-3.0 60.5 [1] **B Owen**-3.0 59.5 [6] **Freeman-Ke** 13.5% M Kent 1 5215 Reflectivity 2 4111 Dawn Raid 8.4% **Hawkes** 16.9% **3** 0911 17.3% **J O'Shea** 18.1% **4** 8332 ] J Noske 8 5421 Set To Sparkle [7] L Currie [5] M Dee 11.3% T Mcevoy 15.8% % Bloomfiel 11.6% 9 348x Thunder C % K Hanley 8.2% 10 x281 Hay Now % Fletcher 9.6% 11 210x Mount Kild % G Hook 4.4% 12 1225 Bad Wolf 9 348x Thunder Cloud 9.5% D Weir 31 Hurry Up Harry 32 Midweek Hussle 37 Blue Collar Boy 55.5 [12] Riordan-3.0 8.7% S Dwver 11.0% 4 2713 Nicci's Gold 58.5 81 J Collett 6 0x7x Fathoms Of Gol 54.0 55.5 [6] **B Allen** 11.2% **D Weir** 15.6% 54.0 [9] **J Bowditch** 10.3% **Kennewel** 14.3% 14x9 Mr One Eleven 57.5 11.2% **Musgrov** 7.8% 10.6% **Dabernig** 13.6% 1] T Marquand 1 7] J Mcdonald 1 4] S Guymer 54.0 [6] L Camilleri 54.0 [10] C Staples 54.0 [5] C Parnham 54.0 [3] W Pike 6 1131 Five Kingdom M Poy-3.0 13 x141 Montana Pines T Berry J Ford 11.8% **Grills** 12.6% K M Keys 8.7% 10.7% Alexande 13.3% 12.4% Musgrov 7.8% 12.7% Hawkes 16.9% M Zahra RHIL--1350m 6 Cavanou 15.2% Race 5 01:20PM (A\$125,000) | 13 | Macfard | 126% k M keys | 87.78 | 13 | Childs | 10.77 | Alexande | 13.3% | 8 | 80.56 | Most Exatled | 57.0 | 9 | Uvermer | 20 | 11.0% m | State | 16.7% | 12 | Macfard | 12.7% | Musgrov | 7.8% | 10 | 52.25 | Left Party Marty | 56.0 | 12 | K Meevoy | 12.7% | Hawkes | 16.9% | 10 | 52.25 | Left Party Marty | 56.0 | 12 | K Meevoy | 12.7% | Left Party Marty | 11.0% | Macfard | 11.0% | M 9.0% Cavariou 15.2% 12.9% M Dunn 16.9% 16.9% 2 x451 Sweet Scandal 15.0% 3 177x The Avenger 15.0% 3 177x The Avenger 15.0% 3 177x The Avenger 15.0% 3 175x The Avenger 15.0% 3 1648 Schubert 15.0% 3 175x The Avenger 16.0% 3 175x The Avenger 16.0% 3 175x The Avenger 17.0% 3 175x The Avenger 18.0% 3 175x The Avenger 61.0 [7] Overmei-2.0 11.6% Martin 17.6% 60.5 [2] R Dolan-2.0 10.0% C Waller 13.9% 60.0 [6] M Walker 13.3% C Waller 13.9% T Cavallo ASCT--1200m B Ryan 8.4% J Cleary Pracey-Hol 9.1% M Milton 1299 Hipparchus 6.9% Casey 17.4% 13 2142 Laure Me In 19 60x1 Lolita Gold Osborne 9.6% 5 326x Braces Γ Berry 11.3% 13 2142 Edute Me In 54.0 [5] L Curri 11.2% 14 0347 The Mighty Jrod 54.0 [5] J Kah 17.6% R Laing 8.9% Race 12 03:45PM (A\$35,000) 20 5222 Honour The One 53.0 [10] --Collings 12.8% 6 x373 Handfast T Marguand 10.5% R Litt MORP--2049m er 58.0 [8] -- Snowden 17.8% 57.5 [4] K Mcevoy 13.9% G Ryan 14.4% 10.784 Collateral 61.0 [11] Oven 57.5 [11] J Mcdonald 17.5% Cumming 17.8% 1 0784 Collateral 61.0 [11] Oven 56.5 [10] J Ford 9.0% R Litt 11.2% 2 x837 Asterius 59.5 [3] J Mcd 53.0 [3] Ms R King 11.1% J Coyle 10.7% 3 x847 Dalmatia Prince 59.0 [5] J Ford 7 2112 Poetic Charmer 58.0 Snowden 17.8% RHIL--2000m FLEM--1100m 8 64x5 Pipeline 12.6% Dabernig 13.6% 9 5144 Regent 13.3% Zahra 12.2% 10 0422 The Pharoah Race 2 12:20PM (A\$250,000) 61.0 [11] Overmei-2.0 11.6% B Baker 16.7% 59.5 [3] J Mcdonald 17.5% C Waller 13.9% 58.0 [9] **M Zahra** 57.5 [3] **D Lane** 1 0x00 Prairie Fire 12.6% **Dabernig** 13.6% 9.0% T Howlett 9.5% 13.9% C Waller 13.9% 12.9% C Waller 13.9% 7221 Misty Lad 8.9% **11** 4751 No Interest 5 1132 Crimson Tears [9] D Staeck 1.5% F Kersley 11.3% 1 D Oliver 6 Bowman 11.9% Race 6 01:40PM (A\$140,000) 6 \$ Wilde 15.0% 1 6553 Thermal Current 60.0 [5] D La 6 x751 Dr Dependable 56.0 7 1232 Rusker's Rallad 55.0 FLEM--1000m 5 1232 Busker's Ballad 9.9% S Wolfe 12.19 1 6553 Thermal Current 60.0 [5] D Lane 13.3% D Weir 15.6% 2 320x Champagne C 59.5 [4] C Williams 13.5% B Baker 16.7% 3 803x Heart Of A Lion 58.5 [3] J Bowditch 10.3% Kennewel 14.3% 12.3% **K Lees** 7 3324 Miss Shanti 56.0 G Schofield 12.4% C Waller 13.9% 7314 Missybeel [7] Hyeronimus 13.0% B Baker [4] M Walker 13.3% Dabernig h 10.3% Kennewel 14.3% 8 7314 Missybeel 56.0 [7] Hyeronimus 13.0% B Baker 16.7% 9 X158 Franked 54.5 [11] Carbon 12.6% R Laing 8.9% 10 0780 Temporado 55.0 [4] M Walker 13.3% Dabernig 13.6% 10 1252 Tizz 54.0 [2] - 7 Marquand 10.5% Snowden 17.8% 11 6524 Eperdument 54.0 [3] J P 11.5% D Weir 15.6% 11 x147 Celfic Love 54.0 [10] Ms R King 11.1% Conners 9.5% 12 3846 All Well 54.0 [1] - 17.6% J Hunter 10.7% 12 1592 Lonely Orphan 52.0 [8] K O'Hara 9.1% Jeffriess 9.7% Race 13 04:20PM (A\$35,000) 54.0 [2] -- R Bruhn 54.0 [3] J Potter 8.7% Oxlade 54.0 [1] -- G Young [3] J Bowditch 10.3% Kennewel 14.3% [2] M Zahra 12.6% R Laing 8.9% 9 1 The Sisters 55.0 [6] J Martin 7.6% Carey 9.3% 4 3709 Missrock 10 6x53 Hello Sweethear 55.0 [2] J Bowditch 10.3% Williams 19.0% 5 164x Glenall 4 3709 Missrock 9.4% **15** x161 Vital Blast [1] D Dunn [7] J Allen [6] J Kah G Young 9.1% Race 3 12:40PM (A\$125,000) RHIL--1100m 7 x 840 Belwazi 54.0 [6] J Kah 1 339x Special Missile 61.5 [7] R Dolan-2.0 10.0% O'Rourke 13.6% 8 440x Bullpit 54.0 [6] J Meil 2 x114 Bon Amis 60.0 [5] K Mcevoy 13.9% J Deamer 14.8% 9 0492 Circus Dancer 54.0 [9] Beriman Race 3 12:40PM (A\$125,000) MORP--1600m publisher accepts no liability for any error which may arise. [5] Jordsjo-2.0 7.8% Richards 8.9% [10] Caserta-2.0 8.2% Murphy 10.6% 9.0% Dabernig 13.6% 9.6% Lenehan 7.6% Race 10 02:55PM (A\$125,000) FLEM--1200m 1 3473 Enki 9.7% Eustace 20.4% 2 2711 Naseeb 9.1% Moroney 12.2% 3 5x81 Sacred Theme 2 x114 Bon Amis K Mcevoy Visit singaporepools.com for more race information and results [2] Kersley-2.0 [7] L King-3.0 [3] J Martin-2.0 H Coffey 9.8% D Weir PLAY RESPONSIBLY Race 7 02:00PM (A\$125.000) RHIL--1200m 4 1x16 Canford R Balfour 4 X2/X All Over Bosano 57.5 [9] Imarquant 10.5% O'Shea 18.1% Race 7 V2:00-PM (4.5) 12.5,000) RT-11-120-PM (5.5) 15 (1.5) 7.6% **Hawkes** 16.9% 3 7x93 Top Me Up4 x2x4 Just Hifalutin D Tourneur 13.2% M Price J Holder 12.8% Richards Riordan-3.0 5 x118 Order Of Com 11 D Oliver 16.3% D O'Brien 15.0% | National Problem Gambling 6 67x9 Atlantic City

58.5 [12] D Lane

x918 Colesberg

# GRAY'S NO FUN NO GAIN **BOUNCES BACK IN STYLE**

NZ-bred colt scores second success in just three starts, earmarked for the S'pore 3YO Challenge Series

# Tan Thean Loon

Smart all-the-way winner No Fun No Gain returned to the winning list in style at Kranji last night, after a hiccup at his second start.

Like his trainer Stephen Gray said, you're three years old only once, so the three-legged Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge Series will be on his agenda.

Unlike his debut, No Fun No Gain was ridden from behind second-up and could only finish fifth to rising galloper Siam Vipasiri. That blot on Nov 2 could also be ignored as No Fun No Gain returned lame nearfore after the race.

It was back to the drawing board and No Fun No Gain showed he was back with a vengeance by winning his trial impressively. The playful and colty bay Kiwi-bred was educated to relax and race from behind and he really caught the eye when he charged home in the straight.

Punters naturally jumped on the No Fun No Gain bandwagon in last night's Class 4 Div 2 event over 1,200m in Race 3 on the strength of that trial. After some see-sawing with the Steven Burridge-trained Quantum for favouritism, No Fun No Gain started as the \$17 second favourite to \$16 for Quantum.

Ridden by jockey Daniel Moor, No Fun No Gain appeared to overrace a little due to the slow pace set by last-start beaten favourite Copacabana from newcomer Smart Warrior, who soon raced up to be abreast. No Fun No Gain was tucked nicely between the pair, who clocked a pedestrian 26.42sec

for the first 400m. Bunched up behind were newcomer Yulong Dream, Super Talent, El Chapo and Eastiger widest. The \$23 third favourite Lim's Reform was in another bunch, a similar gap away.



Copacabana was first for home as Smart Warrior drifted out. No Fun No Gain moved up to tackle the leader and had the measure with 200m left to run. Moor reminded his mount of his obligation and was home and hosed. Lim's Reform motored home on the outside for his third successive second placing.

No Fun No Gain will now take the Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenges Series path, starting with the \$250,000 Group 3 JBBA Singapore Three-Year-Old Sprint over 1,200m on April 5. The second leg is the \$500,000 Group 2 Singapore Three-Year-Old Classic over 1,400m on May 3 and the third leg is

No Fun No Gain (No. 6) proving too good in Race 3 at Kranji last night for his second victory from just three

starts. ST PHOTO:

SALWA SUANDI

the \$1 million Group 1 Singapore Guineas over 1,600m on May 25.

Gray reckoned his charge would be better over 1,400m to 1,600m. Over 1,200m, it would be hard to topple trainer Shane Baertschiger's Bold Thruster and the Steven Burridge-trained and Lim's Stableowned crack sprinter Lim's Light-

"I don't know if he can beat Shane's horse over 1,200m, or even the Lim's horse. He's looking for 1,400m to a mile, but that's what you do, isn't it? You're three years old once, but time will tell," said the Kiwi trainer.

Although No Fun No Gain has nat-

ural speed, Gray and Moor felt it would be best to teach the horse whom Gray called "a bull" - to sit be-

"Stephen and I are both on the same wavelength with this horse. We just want to get him to switch off, but he was just brilliant at the start," said Moor.

hind the speed and unwind.

"I thought about taking up early, but I just thought we'd ruin the horse. You know, the last trial I rode him with cover and he was very good. Look, I just thought if we pulled to the top tonight, we would be teaching him bad habits.'

loon@sph.com.sg

# Friday's South Africa results

1st 1 Edmonda (\$24-\$8)

2nd 6 Scarborough Fair (\$17) 3rd 2 Fairyland (\$15)

4th 10 Yodalicious

Forecast \$83 Place Forecast (1-6) \$26, (1-2) \$18, (2-6) \$32 Tierce \$969 Trio \$844 Quartet No

winner (\$598 carried forward)

## RACE 2

1st 7 Zalika (\$19-\$6)

Scratching: 4 Pierina

2nd 8 Sun Up (\$7) 3rd 1 Dancing In Seattle (\$9)

4th 18 Thokzine

Forecast \$11 Place Forecast (7-8) \$6, (1-7) \$9, (1-8) \$9 Tierce \$40 Trio \$10 Quartet No winner (\$890 carried forward) **Scratchings:** 2 Beholden, 10 Hurricane Sasha, 12 Pollymania, 19 My

# Prerogative

RACE 3 1st 2 Rochester (\$9-\$7)

2nd 7 Gravitation (\$15)

3rd 8 Silvari (\$7) 4th 3 Lets Be Frank

Forecast \$31 Place Forecast (2-7) \$12, (2-8) \$4, (7-8) \$17 Tierce \$210 Trio \$38 Quartet \$544

# RACE 4

1st 3 Laws Of Succession (\$19-\$6)

**2nd** 6 Evolver (\$15) 3rd 4 Free Agent (\$5.10)

4th 2 Wild Brier

Forecast \$54 Place Forecast (3-6) \$16, (3-4) \$7, (4-6) \$24 Tierce \$442 Trio \$63 Quartet 3-6-4-2 No winner (\$550 carried forward)

# RACE 5

1st 4 Seeking Wisdom (\$81-\$24)

2nd 2 Grandissimo (\$7)

3rd 7 Titus (\$43)

4th 6 Country Rock Forecast \$64 Place Forecast (2-4) \$20, (4-7) \$53, (2-7) \$36 Tierce \$1,936 Trio

\$355 Quartet No winner (\$734 carried forward)

# RACE 6

1st 4 National Park (\$11-\$6)

2nd 2 Union Jack (\$17)

3rd 1 Fifty Cents (\$8)

4th 9 Frikkie Forecast \$30 Place Forecast (2-4)

\$13, (1-4) \$5, (1-2) \$23 **Tierce** \$163 **Trio** \$37 Quartet No winner (\$1,460 carried forward)

Results of Race 7 and 8 were not available at press time. Log on to www.singaporepools.com.sg for the results

# FRIDAY'S SINGAPORE (LONG COURSE C/POLYTRACK) RESULTS

_	PER 01 1 11 50 50 (17 5 10)		(2)				(540)	
	<b>RED CLAW</b> 58 c 56 (17-5.10)	S Shafrizal*	(3)	3	4	1	(518)	-
1	HEART OF COURAGE 58 c 57 (24-8)	R Zawari	(8)	4	3	2	(508)	Sho
1	MILLION ROUND 53.5 (45-13)	l Saifudin	(4)	7	11	3	(495)	1
3	YULONG SHENGDAO 58 c 57 (47-15)	T See	(1)	2	1	4	(491)	Hd
9	<b>RED RIDING WOOD</b> 55 c 51 (131-29)	M Nizar*	(9)	6	6	5	(458)	Hd
	EVERYBODY HAPPY 58 c 56 (13-8)	S Noh	(7)	1	2	6	(486)	0.7
7	CLARTON PALACE 55 (103-23)	D Moor	(6)	8	8	7	(498)	Sh
6	SPECIAL RAIN 55 c 54 (134-29)	TH Koh	(2)	5	5	8	(476)	3.5
	MR O'REILLY 55 (224-49)	M Kellady	(10)	10	9	9	(454)	3.7
	LUCKY BOY 55 c 52 (141-30)	WS Chan*	(5)	9	10	10	(523)	3.7

RACE 2 Open Maiden D1 (LC) 1400m 9 GANGNAM CLASSIC 58 c 56 (63-14) ACCUMULATION 58 (38-11) GLAMOROUS 58 c 57 (41-12) GINGERMAN 58 (228-34) I Azhar (448)13 GOLD COMPANY 57.5 (98-19) **B** Vorster (489)5 KING COBRA 58 c 55 (111-24) 10 BLUE CHIP 58 (18-11) 1 CALVADOS 58 (125-32) N Zyrul\* B Thompson G Boss (466)8 CROWN DELIGHT 58 c 57 (85-20) 11 ROCK ME EASY 58 (15-7) V Duric (519)M Lerner (8) 11 WS Chan\* (10) 8 CC Wong\* (6) 10 14 EXCELLENT MOON 53.5 (92-18) 10 13 11 4 PHAN NEE STAR 58 c 55 (273-53) 12 SMART SUCCESS 57.5 c 56.5 (295-63) 12 13 Winning stable: J Saimee. Trainer: J Saimee. Time: Imin 24.39sec (good). Forecast: \$80. Tierce: \$881. Quartet: No winner (\$7568 carried forward to next race). P Forecast: \$19 (9-3), \$13 (3-2), \$29 (9-2).Trio: \$81. Course scratching: 6 Gros Piton

RACE 3 C4 D2 (LC) 1200m 6 NO FUN NO GAIN 55.5 (17-6) 3 LIM'S REFORM 57 c 56 (23-9) 7 SUPER TALENT 55.5 c 54.5 (45-16) D Moor (5) T See (6) CC Wong\* (2) M Rodd (4) (551) 0.5 (494) 0.5 (513) Ns (479) 2 **COPACABANA** 57 (56-14) (479) (499)

10 EL CHAPO 54.5 c 52.5 (146-39)

12 OUR SHOWCASE 52.5 (52-15)	B Vorster	(11)	10	11	8	(477)	0.5
4 <b>QUANTUM</b> 56.5 (16-6)	G Boss	(3)	9	10	9	(499)	Ns
8 YULONG DREAM 55.5 c 54.5 (211-54)	Z Zuriman	(1)	7	3	10	(481)	2
11 SMART WARRIOR 54 c 51 (660-138)	A Syahir*	(7)	1	5	11	(485)	1
Winning stable: GO Go Racing. Trainer: S Gray. Time: 1 Quartet: \$1023. P Forecast: \$6 (6-3), \$12 (3-7), \$9 (6-7)							
RACE 4		Oper	ı Ma	iden	<b>D2</b>	(LC) 14	00m

1 SACRED DON 58 (16-10) 4 MAI DARKO 58 c 55 (22-10) 3 TIGRESS 52 c 51 (551-92) V Duric (8) Krisna\* (10) C Wong\* (11) (558) 1 (508) 0.5 (480) 1 CC Wong\* (516) (558) Hd Hd 0.5 4.75 **WHAKAARIA MAI** 58 (35-10) 10 3 RIVER SUPERSTAR 58 (68-16) MILITARY CHAIRMAN 58 (23-6) (3) 7 (12) 12 (449)10 COGNITIVE INTACT 56 5 c 52 5 (629-115) F Yusoff\* (485) MIRACLETIME 58 (55-16)
D'GREAT COMMAND 58 c 57 (62-15) 8 4 6 8 13 13 5 2 9 12 (463) 8 13 2 M Ewe I Saifudin (578) (434) OVER DE TOP 53.5 (326-43) M Zaki (13) I Azhar (9) 9 WORKAHOLIC 58 (283-55) 8 QINGDAO 58 (332-58) 12 13 (489) 0.5 \$1057

	Quartet: No winner (\$13586 carried forward to next race). <b>P Forecast:</b> \$15 (3-1), \$8 (1-4), \$21 (3-4). <b>Trio:</b> \$81.										
	RACE 5				KS-I	D D1	(LC) 12	00m			
1	GAIN ECLIPSE 58 c 56 (9-5.10)	S Noh	(2)	-	-	1	(463)				
8	<b>EVIL SPEEDO</b> 55 c 52.5 (205-25)	Y Salim*	(1)	-	-	2	(550)	1.75			
5	PAPERBACK TROOPER 56.5 c 55.5 (27-8)	T See	(6)	-	-	3	(510)	2.25			
7	ALWRICH 55 c 54 (109-22)	Z Zuriman	(7)	-	-	4	(457)	Nk			
3	ALAMOSA EXPRESS 58 (23-8)	V Duric	(5)	-	-	5	(479)	Hd			
4	<b>BRILLIANT ONE</b> 56.5 (76-15)	B Thompson	(3)	-	-	6	(490)	4.25			
6	<b>SUCCESS STREET</b> 56.5 c 55.5 (440-58)	M Ewe	(8)	-	-	7	(438)	0.75			
2	SACRED TONIC 58 (35-10)	G Boss	(9)	-	-	8	(499)	2.25			
10	<b>RAFALE</b> 53.5 c 52.5 (278-37)	TH Koh	(4)	-	-	9	(439)	7			
9	MY AIM 55 c 51 (506-70)	K Nuh*	(10)	-	-	10	(488)	3.25			
		10.00			42 -						

ng stable: Eclipse. Trainer: S Burridge. Time: 1min 10.86sec (good). Forecast: \$42. Tierce: \$616. Ouartet: \$8083. P Forecast: \$14 (1-8). \$34 (8-5). \$5 (1-5). Trio: \$110. 5 LONHRO GOLD 52.5 (81-21)

5 KING OF WAR 52.5 (127-28) D Moor (5) GOLDEN FLAME 51.5 c 50.5 (38-12) GOOD NEWS 56 (38-10) CC Wong\* S Noh **SIERRA CONOUEROR** 54.5 (20-5.10) (503)LIM'S KNIGHT 52 (114-23) XIONG FONG 51.5 (363-64) 12 DASH 51c50 (127-27) 9 JUSTICE FIRST 51.5c51 (766-133) 10 WHOSE ELSE'S 51.5 (286-49) CS Chin (3) A Syahir\* (6) (440)A Syahir\* (6) 11 G Boss (8) 10 10 (512)

Winning stable: Gold. Trainer: C Brown. Time: 58.82sec (good). Forecast: \$47. Tierce: \$1964. Quartet: \$4904. F

Forecast: \$19 (6-1), \$18 (1-5), \$66 (6-5). Trio: \$154. Course scratching: 3 Krato

RACE 7 C1 (LC) 1200m 10 BE BEE 50 c 51.5 (16-8) 4 FOREVER YOUNG 53.5 (59-13) 11 NEPEAN 50 c 51.5 (52-17) 8 VIVIANO 50 (110-24) 1 SUPER WINNER 59 c 57 (102-23) (475) (489) M Kellady (513) **S Noh** (6) **G Boss** (5) (530) (460) KINGSMAN 50 c 51.5 (58-16) FAALTLESS 56.5 (83-19) SUPER FORTUNE 52 c 52.5 (16-5.1) 10 AFFLECK 51 (41-14) **B** Vorster 0.5 **MAXIMUS** 58.5 c 57.5 (54-15) 10 Winning stable: Auric. Trainer: S Baertschiger. Time: 1min 09.73sec (good). Forecast: \$69. Tierce: \$519.

Ouartet: \$2730. P Forecast: \$19 (10-4), \$30 (4-11), \$13 (10-11). Trio: \$131. Course scratching: 7 Poseidor

RACE 8 C4 D1 (LC) 1200m M Rodd (12) 8 B Vorster (5) 5 V Duric (6) 6 GOLD STRIKE 56.5 (26-6) COME AND TAKE ALL 53.5 (46-13) SONG OF SPRING 56.5 (183-38) (518) (521) QUADCOPTER 55 (12-7) ATLANTIC FOX 57 c 56 (143-31) BORN TO BE KING 56.5 (49-14) (548) (506) **HEARTLIGHT** 54.5 (134-31) (502) (481)T Krisna\* (7) I Saifudin (10) Shd 3.75 NATURAL IMPULSE 56.5 (281-58) (483)KRANJI GOLD 56 (213-51) MISS MICHELLE 55 c 54 (361-62) B Thompson (3) TH Koh (8) 11 12 Winning stable: Gold. Trainer: C Brown. Time: 1min 10.94sec 9good). Forecast: \$38. Tierce: \$2741 Quartet: No winner (\$16736 carried forward to next Singapore meeting on 20/1)). P Forecast: \$19 (3-12), \$94 (12-7), \$43 (3-7). Trio: \$582.

# 19-01-19 SATURDAY - EUROPE RACE CARD

EUROPE FEED: CAGNES-SUR-MER (#OTH1)

Race 1 07:15PM (€	£19,000	)) <b>C</b>	AGAW1600m	9	43 Schon	e Aussicl	ht 54.5	[9]	C Stefan	10.3%	Smrczek	10.09
<ul> <li>1 0x00 Buster</li> <li>2 2124 Cherisy</li> <li>3 14x3 Tropical Princes</li> <li>4 x10x Saccharose</li> <li>5 21x3 Pretreville</li> </ul>	60.0 [5 59.5 [4 59.5 [7 58.5 [6 57.0 [3 57.0 [2	A Lemaitre Soumillon P Boudot M Guyon C Demuro A Crastus	9.8% Caullery 7.3% 18.5% C Rossi 12.7% 14.4% Chappet 9.6% 14.1% J Reynier 13.6% 11.3% J Rouget 24.2% 7.8% P Sogorb 14.9% 8.5% Palussier 10.0%	1 2 2 3 4 8 5 (	276x Lucky 90 Asturio 3qx Enoug 8262 Moni 0000 Free H	Bird as Road ah Said lorse	58.0 58.0 58.0 58.0 56.5	[8] [1] [7] [3] [6]	T Speicher Michel 1.5 E Hardouin M Forest A Crastus	6.0% 8.5% 7.3% 7.3% 7.8%	Baudron Dissaux Palussier E Caroux Dissaux	5.8% 5.1% 10.0% 4.7% 5.1%
1 0336 Tres Solid	59.0 [6	f Foresi	<b>CAGN2400m</b> 6.4% M Boutin 5.8%	7 3	376x Funny	Valentin	e 56.5	[2]	J Auge	12.3%	C Ferland	18.1%
				Rad	ce 4 08:	45PM	(€44,0	00)	) C	AGA	W160	)0m
4 1051 Souvigne 5 009x Montesquieu	59.0 [8	M Velon-4.0	12.9% J Gauvin 11.3%		152x Edinso	n	56.0	[1]	Mendizabal	13.5%	Chotard	9.7%
6 123x Ajmany 7 0736 Imprimeur	59.0 [7 59.0 [4	B Flandrin N Perret	8.9% <b>H Blume</b> 11.8% 9.7% <b>J Reynier</b> 13.6%	3 4 5	0x5 It's All	A Dream	56.0	[2]	A Hamelin	8.5%	Palussier	10.0%
	1 0x00 Buster 2 2124 Cherisy 3 14x3 Tropical Princes 4 x10x Saccharose 5 21x3 Pretreville 6 437x My Love Dream 7 373x Exeat Race 2 07:45PM (6 1 0336 Tres Solid 2 2980 Helioblu Barellet 3 1153 Skaters Waltz 4 1051 Souvigne 5 009x Montesquieu 6 123x Ajmany	1 0x00 Buster 60.0 [5] 2 2124 Cherisy 59.5 [4] 3 14x3 Tropical Princes 59.5 [7] 4 x10x Saccharose 58.5 [6] 5 21x3 Prefreville 57.0 [3] 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [3] 7 373x Exeat 55.5 [1]  Race 2 07:45PM (€17,000 1 0336 Tres Solid 59.0 [6] 2 2980 Helioblu Borelier 59.0 [2] 3 1153 Skaters Waltz 4 1051 Souvigne 59.0 [3] 4 1051 Souvigne 59.0 [3] 5 009x Montesquieu 59.0 [1] 6 123x Ajmany 59.0 [7] 7 0736 Imprimeur 59.0	1 0x00 Buster 60.0 [5] A Lemaitre 2 2124 Cherisy 59.5 [4] Soumillon 3 14x3 Tropical Princes 59.5 [7] P Boudot 4 x10x Saccharose 5 21x3 Pretreville 57.0 [3] C Demuro 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [2] A Crastus 7 373x Exeat 55.5 [1] A Hamelin Race 2 07:45PM (€17,000)  1 0336 Tres Solid 59.0 [6] F Foresi 2 2980 Heliobju Bareller 59.0 [2] M Forest 3 1153 Skaters Waltz 4 1051 Souvigne 59.0 [8] M Velon-4.0 6109x Montesquieu 59.0 [7] B Flandrin 7 0736 Imprimeur 59.0 [7] B Flandrin 7 0736 Imprimeur 59.0 [7] B Flandrin 7 0736 Imprimeur 59.0 [7] N Perret	1 0x00 Buster 60.0 [5] A Lemaitre 2 2124 Cherisy 59.5 [4] Soumillon 3 14x3 Tropical Princes 59.5 [7] P Boudot 14.4% Chappet 9.6% C 8 2 12.7% A 10x Saccharose 58.5 [6] M Guyon 52 12x3 Prefreville 57.0 [3] C Demuro 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [2] A Crastus 7 373x Exeat 55.5 [1] A Hamelin 8.5% Palussier 10.0% CAGN-2400m 1 0.336 Tres Solid 59.0 [6] F Foresi 2 2 980 Helioblu Borelier 59.0 [2] M Forest 7.3% Rarick 6.0% 3 1153 Skaters Waltz 59.0 [3] Soumillon 1 8.5% Vermeule 11.6% 4 1051 Souvigne 59.0 [8] M Velon-4.0 12.9% J Gauvin 11.3% 5 0.09x Montesquieu 59.0 [7] B Flandrin 7 0736 Imprimeur 59.0 [4] N Perret 9.7% H Blume 11.8% 9.7% J Reynier 13.6% 12.7% 13.6% 12.7% 13.6% 12.7% 13.6% 12.3% 13.6% 13.	1 0x00 Buster 60.0 [5] A Lemaire 9.9% Caullery 7.3% 2 2124 Cherisy 59.5 [4] Soumillon 18.5% C Rossi 12.7% 13 14x3 Tropical Princes 99.5 [7] P Boudot 14.4% Chappet 9.6% 5 21x3 Pretreville 57.0 [3] C Demuro 11.3% J Rouget 24.2% 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [2] A Crastus 7.8% P Sogorb 14.9% 5 37 373x Exect 55.5 [1] A Hamelin 8.5% P Sogorb 14.9% 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [2] A Crastus 7.8% P Sogorb 14.9% 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [3] C Demuro 11.3% J Rouget 24.2% 14.1% J Rouget 24.2% 15.5% Exect 55.5 [1] A Hamelin 8.5% P Sogorb 14.9% 6 7 8 8 8 11.53 Skatlers Waltz 4.051 Souvigne 59.0 [2] M Forest 7.3% Rarick 6.0% 15.3% Almost 59.0 [8] M Velon-4.0 12.9% J Gauvin 11.5% 15	1 0x00 Buster 60.0 [5] A Lemaitre 9.8% Caullery 7.3% 2 2124 Cherisy 59.5 [4] Soumillon 18.5% C Rossi 12.7% 14.7% Troplocal Princes 59.5 [7] P Boudot 14.7% J Reynier 13.6% 5 21x3 Pretreville 57.0 [3] C Demuro 11.3% J Rouget 24.2% 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [2] A Crastus 7.8% P Sogorb 14.9% 8262 Monto 6 437x My Love Dream 57.0 [2] A Crastus 8.5% Palussier 10.0% 5 0000 Free H 55.5 [1] A Hamelin 8.5% Palussier 10.0% 8262 Monto 6 437x My Love Dream 59.0 [2] M Forest 7.3% Rarick 6.0% 837x Alissac 19.0% 153 Skadters Waltz 9.0 [3] M Vefon-4 12.9% J Gauvin 11.3% 357x Alissac 19.0% M Moutin 5.8% 14.051 Souvigne 59.0 [8] M Vefon-4 12.9% J Gauvin 11.3% 12.1x Walho 2 152x Edinsc 19.0% M Boutin 5.8% 15.0% M M Porret 9.7% J Reynier 13.6% 12.7% Alissac 19.0% M Porret 9.7% J Reynier 13.6% 12.7% M Porret 9.7%	1 0x00 Buster 60.0 [5] A Lemaitre 9.8% Caullery 7.3% Race 3 08:15PM 2 2124 Cherisy 59.5 [4] Soumillon 1 8.5% C Rossi 12.7% 1 276x Lucky Bird 1 276x Lucky Bird 1 276x Lucky Bird 2 90 Asturias Road 3 3qx Enough Said 14.4% Chappet 9.6% 2 90 Asturias Road 3 3qx Enough Said 11.3% J Rouget 24.2% 11.3% J	1 0x00 Buster 60.0 [5] A Lemaitre 9.8% Caullery 7.3% Race 3 08:15PM (€23,01 12.7% 1 276x Lucky Bird 58.0 3 14x3 Tropical Princes 59.5 [7] P Boudot 14.4% Chappet 9.6% 2 90 Asturias Road 58.0 4 x10x Saccharose 58.5 [6] M Guyon 11.3% J Rouget 24.2% 3 3αx Enough Said 58.0 11.3% J Rouget 24.2% 11.3	1 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# 19-01-19 SATURDAY - MACAU RACE CARD

N	MACAU FEED: MACAU (#HK)							
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# SPORT

# LOPSIDED **POWERS IN A BROKEN FORMAT**

# West still too strong against East, a scenario which may see James miss the NBA play-offs

LOS ANGELES • The National Basketball Association's (NBA) playoff races are starting to take shape well, two shapes.

In the East, picture an hourglass – heavy on top, light in the middle and heavy at the bottom.

Five teams can dream of a Finals trip, the next six are trailing behind in no-man's land, and the last four are already praying they can draft Duke's Zion Williamson – arguably this year's top college prospect.

Out West, imagine a staircase that abuts a sharp cliff. The conference's 15 teams are gradually separated one step at a time – except for the Phoenix Suns, who are all alone at the bottom of the canyon.

These duelling landscapes have been a boon as the past four seasons have often felt like mere preludes to LeBron James facing the Golden State Warriors in the finale. This year, the league is basking in

the thrill of the unknown. The Toronto Raptors and Boston Celtics have been freed from James - for so long the East's bogeyman while the Warriors have stumbled enough to raise hopes among the other competitors in the West.

Nevertheless, the league's longstanding conference imbalance continues, and it threatens to seriously dampen the fun and excitement during the play-offs.

The West's dominance since Michael Jordan's retirement from the Chicago Bulls in 1999 is no secret. They have won 14 of the past 20 titles, claiming a 68-43 head-tohead record in Finals games. There have been 28 60-win teams over the past 20 years and 19 have come from the West.



Los Angeles Lakers centre Ivica Zubac, who career-high 26 points, tries to get past centre Steven Adams (12) and guard Terrance Ferguson of the Oklahoma City Thunder in the 138-128 overtime win on Thursday. The Lakers, paced by Kyle Kuzma's 32 points, improved to 5-7 while without LeBron James and Rajon Rondo for a 12th straight game. PHOTO: REUTERS

In 13 of the past 20 years, a West lottery team had a superior record than the East's eighth seed.

And, despite the new blood at the top of the East, the macro trend between the conferences is holding.

Ten of the league's top-16 teams, by both winning percentage and point differential, are from the West – even though West teams are at a disadvantage due to the NBA's imbalanced regular-season schedule, which features 52 conference games and 30 non-conference

In other words, if the play-offs started today, two deserving West teams would be at home while two undeserving East teams would be headed to the post-season.

That is unfair and unfortunate, but it gets worse when one considers which teams might be snubbed. Anthony Davis, arguably a top-five talent, would have a far easier time leading the New Orleans Pelicans into the play-offs in the East.

Ditto for the Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic, the presumptive Rookie of the Year and one of the leading All-Star vote-getters. But the real nightmare scenario

for the NBA concerns James and the Los Angeles Lakers. The four-time Most Valuable

Player suffered a groin strain on Christmas, causing him to miss 12 games and counting. During his absence, the Lakers have dropped to eighth, with the

Utah Jazz nipping at their heels. Such is life in the unforgiving West, where virtually every team are a two-week injury away from

the play-off bubble. Imagine how

damaging it would be for the TV ratings and the league's financial bottom line if James misses out on the play-offs, while the mediocre Charlotte Hornets slip in as the East's eighth seed with a losing record.

This ongoing conference imbalance has led to multiple reform campaigns, including a one-to-16 proposal which would take the league's top-16 teams into the play-offs regardless of conference.

It is endlessly frustrating that the NBA settles for less than its best in the play-offs. WASHINGTON POST

# **Next 48 Hours**

# **TODAY**

# **FOOTBALL**

English Premier League Wolves v Leicester (8.30pm), Liverpool v Crystal Palace (11pm), Arsenal v Chelsea (tomorrow, 1.30am) - Singtel TV Ch102 & StarHub Ch227. Man United v Brighton (Ch103 & Ch228). Newcastle v Cardiff (Ch104 & Ch229) Southampton v Everton (Ch105 & Ch230), Watford v Burnley (Ch106 & Ch231), Bournemouth v West Ham (Ch107 & Ch232) - 11pm.

Spanish LaLiga Real Madrid v Sevilla (tomorrow, 1.25am), Celta Vigo v Valencia (tomorrow, 3.40am) – StarHub Ch213.

# **GOLF**

Asian Tour SMBC Singapore Open: Day 3 (StarHub Ch201, noon). Serapong Course, Sentosa Golf Club,

European Tour Abu Dhabi C'ship: Day 4 (StarHub Ch204, 3pm). **LPGA Tour** Tournament of

StarHub Ch210, tomorrow, 3am).

# **TENNIS**

Australian Open Day 6 (Singtel TV Ch114/115 & StarHub Ch208/209, 8am & 4pm).

# **TOMORROW**

# **BASKETBALL**

**ABL** Saigon Heat v Westports Malaysia Dragons (6pm), CLS Knights

Champions: Day 3 (Singtel TV Ch116 & v Singapore Slingers (8pm) – StarHub Spanish LaLiga Betis v Girona Ch202. Alab Pilipinas v Mono Vampire (6.55pm), Villarreal v Bilbao (11.10pm), (Ch201, 8pm)

# **FOOTBALL**

AFC Asian Cup Last 16: Jordan v Vietnam (6.50pm), Thailand v China (9.50pm), Iran v Oman (Monday, 12.50am) - Singtel TV Ch115 & StarHub Ch209)

English Premier League Huddersfield v Man City (9.30pm), Fulham v Tottenham (11.55pm) - Singtel TV Ch102 & Star Hub Ch227.

Rayo v Sociedad (Monday, 1.25am), Barcelona v Leganes (Monday, 3.40am) - StarHub Ch213.

# **GOLF**

Asian Tour SMBC Singapore Open: Day 4 (StarHub Ch201, noon). Serapong Course, Sentosa Golf Club, 7.30am.

**LPGA Tour** Tournament of Champions: Day 4 (Singtel TV Ch116 & StarHub Ch210, Monday, 3am).

# MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

**UFC Fight Night** Cejudo v Dillashaw (Singtel TV Ch114 & StarHub Ch208, 11am).

# **TENNIS**

18TH ANNIVERSARY

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洪秀英

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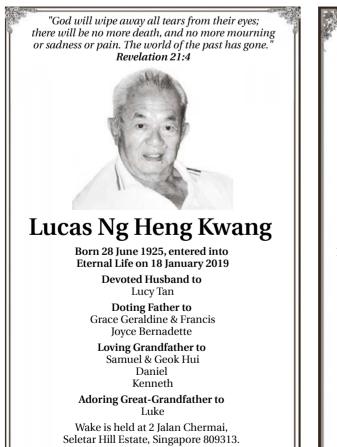
'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want'

Australian Open Day 7 (Singtel TV Ch114/115 & StarHub Ch208/209, 8am & 2pm).

Live telecast times are subject to change. For latest updates, go to singteltv.com.sg & starhubgo.com or check the on-screen TV guide.

# **Obituaries**

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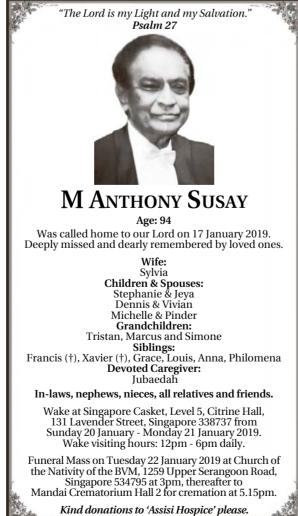
Nightly prayers will be held at 8.00pm.

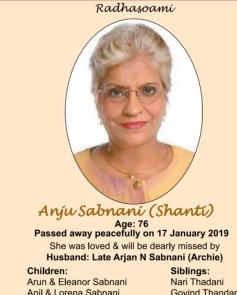
Cortege leaves on Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 10.45am for Funeral Mass at Church of St Vincent de Paul,

301 Yio Chu Kang Road, Singapore 805910 at 11.00am,

thereafter to Mandai Crematorium Hall 1

for cremation at 12.45pm.





Govind Thandan Anil & Lorena Sabnani Arvin & Punam Sabnani Sunita Kapoor Deepak & Hema Gurnan 9 Grandchildren,1 Great Granddaughter, Relatives & Friends Caregiver: Salamah
Cortege will leave the residence on Sunday, 20 Jan 2019 at

4pm from Blk 479 PASIR RIS DR 4 # 05-433 S(510479) for cremation at Mandai Crematorium, Hall 4 @ 5pm. The Condolence Meeting - Marko and Bhog will be held on Wednesday, 23 January 2019 from 5pm to 6pm at Katong Gurdwara 17 Wilkinson Rd, S(436673) Contact: 91288124 (Vikesh) & 81686832 (Hiram)

With her kind and ever-caring ways, *She was generous to those in need;* Her presence brightened up our days; Always cherished by family and loved ones

For enquiries, call 1800-289-9988 (weekdays 8.30am to 6.30pm)

<sup>s<sub>T</sub></sup>Classifieds



6319-5192



Death announcements in The Straits Times are now digitised to make it easier for the deceased's next-of-kin to share news of the demise of their loved one.

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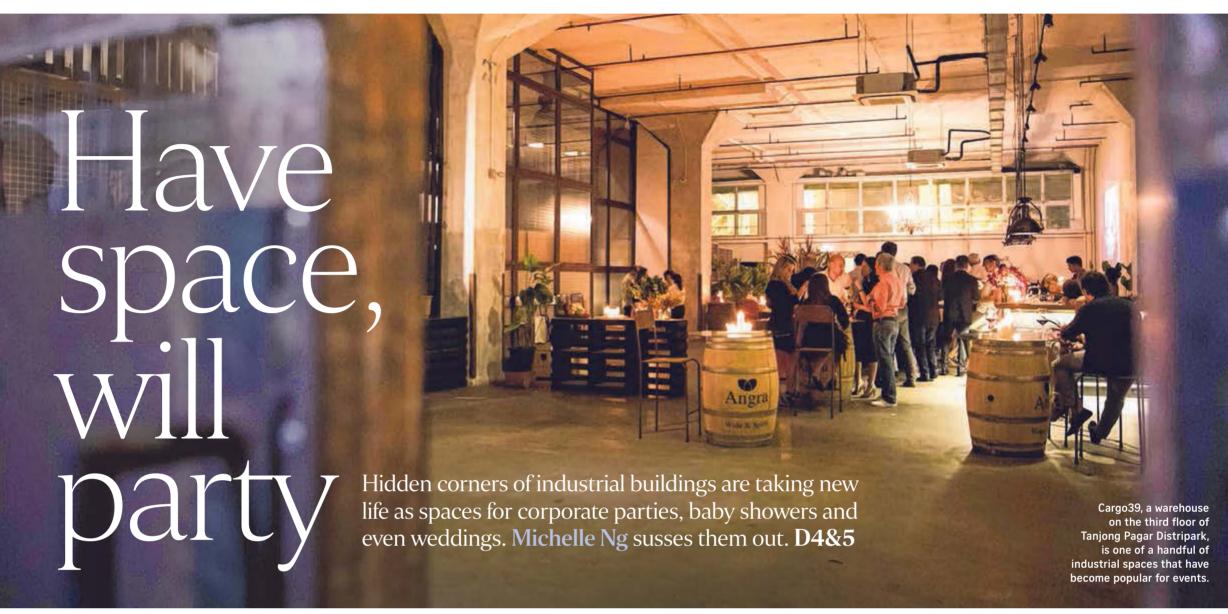
# CELEBRATING STREET ART Aliwal Urban Art Festival back for sixth edition

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- Unknown





DESIGN: SALLY LAM PHOTOS: CARGO39, SAHIBA CHAWDHARY





# Ficus infested with soft scales

There are white spots (right) on the surface and underside of this ficus. What are they and how do I remove them? Rahilah Rahmat

Your ficus leaves appear to be infested with soft scales.

If the infestation is not too serious, you can treat it with less toxic pest-control methods: Remove the pests with a soft toothbrush.

For more serious infestations, apply a dilute solution of neem oil or summer oil weekly to kill adult insects and to keep the pest population in check.

As these pesticides work via contact, ensure that you cover all surfaces of the plant when you are spraying the solution.



PHOTOS: ANDY TAN, FION TEOW, IVY LIM, O.T. GOH, RAHILAH RAHMAT

Repeated applications of pesticide will be needed to reduce the pest population.

# Medical benefits of Bitter Leaf need to be better studied

According to the Internet, the leaves of this plant (right) are said to lower cholesterol and high blood pressure and also cure diabetes and prevent cancer. What plant is this? I understand that the Chinese name is nan fei ye. Andy Tan

The shrub is botanically known as Vernonia amygdalina and commonly called South African Leaf or Bitter Leaf. The medicinal uses of the plant are mostly folkloric and the success stories are at best anecdotal. More scientific work needs to be done to substantiate the health benefits, hence one should proceed with caution. Consult doctors before using the plant to treat ailments.



















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Central-East Star Living @ Tai Seng

#01-09 to #01-14,18 Tai Seng Singapore 539775 Tel: 6386 9811 Weekdays: 12pm - 9pm Weekends & PH: 11am - 9pm Linked to Tai Seng MRT Station



# Moth orchid hybrid needs cool environment to trigger flowering

I have a few Phalaenopsis (above). All the leaves are growing healthily. The flower stalks are more than 1.5m long, but they never have flowers. Is it due to a lack of flowering hormones or fertiliser? O.T. Goh

The reason for the lack of flowers in many moth orchid hybrids (Phalaenopsis) – which are sold for their showy flowers on long inflorescences for display – may be due to the fact that they require a cool period to trigger flowering.

This is evidenced by observations of local gardeners, who report flower spikes being produced in plants mostly during the year-end period in Singapore, when frequent rains often lead to a drop in the local ambient temperature.

If you like moth orchids and have a shaded location in your home garden, you can perhaps try selections of Phalaenopsis violacea and Phalaenopsis bellina as these are more floriferous under local conditions.



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# Top 10 travel experiences for 2019

Central Public Library 100 Victoria Street B1-01 Programme Zone

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Individual Pocketed Spring System

Comfort: Medium Firm

Dorma

Comfort: Extra Firm

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

\* Only from 1 Nov 2018 - 28 Feb 2019

UP\$4,598

18 Tai Seng Street





# Money plant likely to

have mealy bugs

What are these tiny white spots (above) and how do I remove them? Some are found on the leaves and look web-like and mouldy.

lvyLim

Your money plant appears to be infested by mealy bugs, which are a type of sucking insect pests with

cottony fluff. You can first use a strong jet of water to wash the insects from your plant.

To treat a serious and repeated infestation, apply a dilute solution of neem oil or summer oil weekly to manage the pests.

Ensure that you cover all surfaces of the plant and the climbing support when you are spraying the pesticide solution. Repeated applications may be needed for long-term control.



# Red Flame Ivy a common groundcover plant

I got this plant (above) last year and it started to flower recently. The blooms are small and pink and appear in a string. What is it? Fion Teow

This plant is commonly known as Red Flame Ivy or Metal Leaf and its botanical name is Hemigraphis alternata.

It is a common plant used as a groundcover for landscaping uses. It is also sometimes used in vertical gardens for its trailing effect.

It does well in fertile, moist and well-drained soil, and under semi-shade sunlight conditions, the upperside of the leaves exhibits an attractive silver colour.

stlife@sph.com.sg

 Answers by Dr Wilson Wong, an NParks-certified practising horticulturist and park manager.
 He is the founder of Green Culture Singapore and an adjunct assistant professor (Food Science & Technology) at the National University of Singapore.

Have a gardening query?
 E-mail it with clear, high-resolution pictures of at least 1MB, if any, and your full name to stlife@sph.com.sg









Available for rent: Maison Miaja event space (top) in APS Building on Muthuraman Chetty Road, an art gallery on a regular day; Cargo39 (above), a warehouse space in Tanjong Pagar Distripark; and boutique creative agency Chun Tsubaki (right) in Tai Seng. PHOTOS: CARGO39, CHUN TSUBAKI, MAISON MIAJA







Shared studio and event space 21Moonstone (above is located in Boon Keng, while Cloud9 (left), which offers entertainment amenities, is in Bukit Merah. PHOTOS: 21MOONSTONE, GAVIN FOO

Because the space rental cost was within budget and covered the entertainment, we could afford to splurge more on food and drinks.

AGENCY DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE **MELODY CHOW,** who held two company events at Cloud9. She paid \$600 to rent the space for 90 people for five hours

THE STRAITS TIMES | SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019



Michelle Ng

When guests arrived at singer the guests really liked it," she says. Amanda Lee and finance manager Her bold choice of a venue is one Tan Yao Zong's wedding venue in that hosts of important celebra-July last year, they found themselves tions are increasingly making, passnot at a swanky hotel, but in the mid- ing over hotels and function rooms dle of an industrial park in Tai Seng. for something more unusual. Instead of a million-dollar view of As for the boutique creative gleaming skyscrapers in the city, agency that owns the 1,722 sq ft guests looked out to construction venue, the decision to rent out its tower cranes and big trucks parked office was not a hard one to make. amid factory lots and warehouses. But what lay within the venue on are out on most days and people the third floor of the Goodland were constantly asking about rent-Group Building on Kim Chuan ing its space after seeing photos of Lane, where the couple said "I do", it on social media. was a different look and vibe. Guests walked into a room filled kitchen island that is moveable with lush plants and took their seats along with other modular elements on white Tiffany chairs, set up in such as a concrete-like wall on rows in front of the floor-to-ceiling wheels, which doubles as a photowindows that let plenty of natural booth backdrop or projector screen. light into the corner warehouse unit. The space has been rented out two

"I chose this place because it has or three times a week since May last an industrial feel, but is still classy. year, with hourly rates starting at It also has a high ceiling which I \$150 on weekdays and \$180 on weekike," says Ms Lee, 33, who emcees ends. The income from this helps and sings at weddings.

The couple hosted 80 guests that Saturday and paid \$800 for the venue and an additional \$1,600 for the decor, flowers and chair rental. The buffet reception, video and

or give up driving altogether. photography were separate costs. But often, the aesthetics and the Venuerific's most asked about of the 21Moonstone co-working "In hindsight, I wouldn't say I saved money by choosing to do our solemnisation this way. It actually took more work to set it up, but it was trial parks and even Sentosa Cove.

the event day. Chun Tsubaki's five employees they can be really nicely set up, if event organiser from having to overlooks the Kallang River. you have been there many times, come up with a programme." something unexpected," he says. In the space is a fully functional

tosa says venues tend to tag on an tive crowd is 21Moonstone, named the company offset its rental costs. events and weddings.

"Smaller event spaces offer a kind Boon Keng.

native places in the vicinity to park they can to satisfy the customers' limit the types of event they host. needs," he adds.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019 | THE STRAITS TIMES

uniqueness of such a venue can more venue last year was an event space space and was open to the public, than make up for the inconvenience. on the second floor in Jalan Kilang, now opens only for events. most popular are in different or less which half became actual bookings, accessible locations such as indusmainly for social events. There are plenty of entertainment Co-founder Ricardo Sentosa, 35, options in the 2,200 sq ft space, in musicians, film-makers and such.

site and the better the turnout on pool table and board games. "The usual way is to have events says: "It's a place where guests can pieces. at hotels and restaurants and, while amuse themselves and it saves the Its 1,500 sq ft outdoor balcony

you lose the element of finding Agency development executive on weekdays and \$180 on weekends. Melody Chow, 30, held two com-Event spaces that do not provide While hotels and restaurants used pany events – a formal goal-setting entertainment and food-andto dominate the scene, he has seen a session and a Christmas party – at beverage amenities typically have slowing demand in recent years, Cloud9. "Because the space rental add-on event planning and catering mostly on word of mouth as its with more people turning to up-and- cost was within budget and covered options to simplify the planning main marketing tool to keep its coming players that can better cater the entertainment, we could afford process for clients. to their needs and fit their budget to splurge more on food and drinks," for small social events such as baby says Ms Chow, who paid \$600 to the second floor of APS Building on Event and marketing manager showers and 21st-birthday parties. rent the space for 90 people for five Muthuraman Chetty Road in Cristina Gurnari, 28, says: "It's the The average venue rental cost for hours, which she says was worth it. Robertson Quay, offers a list of ven-surprise element that we hope peo-50 people or fewer on Venuerific Another event space that has sucdors for food and drink, florists and ple experience when they come to ranges from \$500 to \$1,000. Mr Sen-cessfully wooed the younger crea-DJs.

additional 20 per cent for corporate after the street it is on. It is on the partners with is French chef Bruno that so close to the CBD." ninth floor of Poh Leng Building in Menard.

The 3,390 sq ft space is a contem-ngmich@sph.com.sg

The biggest downside of the loca- of flexibility that hotels and restau- So popular were the parties that porary art gallery when it is not tion, Ms Lee says, was the lack of rants cannot because they are hunthe owners were forced to shut the being rented out, making it ideal for parking. Her guests had to find alter- gry for business and will do the best fully functioning speakeasy bar and upmarket events such as luxury brands' product launches and fine-The bar, which was originally part dining dinners.

digital installations in the space or On event venue marketplace in an industrial park in Bukit Merah. Set up in July 2017, 21Moonstone The fee averages around \$6,000 Venuerific, which lists 162 venues Cloud9, which opened in August has rebranded itself as a shared for a nine-hour, full-day rental on a for event rental in Singapore, the last year, received 696 inquiries, of studio and event space at the start weekday, excluding catering and decor. The space has standing room of the year. It now focuses on hosting small for up to 250.

intimate showcases for artists, Its brand development manager Yuching Teng, 31, says: "The versasays the more unique the location, cluding a karaoke set, virtual-reality Once a canteen serving the industility of the space means that we the more inquiries he gets on his set, foosball table, arcade console, trial building, the 2,000 sq ft indoor can cater to different needs. We're space is now an eclectic mix of not like a restaurant, but we can pro-Co-founder Charmine Yee, 27, vintage furniture and modern vide the experience a restaurant offers while still keeping it special

and exclusive. Some event spaces prefer to fly Hourly rental prices start at \$150 under the radar with little to no social media presence.

Cargo39, on the third floor of Tanjong Pagar Distripark in the Central Business District (CBD), relies 4,000 sq ft open-plan warehouse Maison Miaja's event space, on space exclusive.

an event at Cargo 39, because you One of the chefs Maison Miaja don't expect to find something like

Unusual event spaces, such as those tucked away in industrial parks, are getting increasingly popular as venues for social events

# Secret party spaces





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# Open to change

Architect Carrie Byles' California house is now brighter than ever, after a fellow architect convinced her to change the renovation plan

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After the renovation, the house has floor-to-ceiling bay views (above) and an accessory dwelling unit (below) on the lower level. PHOTOS: NYTIMES

SAN FRANCISCO • Many architects dream of designing their own homes, but not all architects.

Ms Carrie Byles, for instance, is a partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, one of the largest architecture firms in the United States, but when it came to renovating her 1956 house in Sausalito, California, she wanted help.

"I thought that if I designed it on my own, it would probably take me 10 years because I'd fuss over it a long time and I'm so busy, I'd never have time to work on it," said Ms Byles, 56, who spends her days focused on much larger projects like condominium towers, as well as an expansion of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

She had bought the two-bedroom, 155 sq m, mid-century-modern house in 2011 for about US\$1 million because she liked its post-and-beam construction, exposed ceilings and sliding glass doors.

But other elements looked tired, like the dated kitchen and the vinylclad solarium added by a previous owner.

In 2014, shortly after Sausalito introduced new regulations to address a housing shortage, allowing an increase in floor area for home owners building accessory dwelling units, Ms Byles decided it was time said Ms Byles. to make a few changes, such as adding a wheelchair-accessible inlaw unit on the lower level and renovating her kitchen.

For design help, she called on Ms Jennifer Weiss, a San Francisco architect who began her career as an intern in Ms Byles' office and who now has her own firm.

But where Ms Byles envisioned a few changes, Ms Weiss saw the potential to do something transformational.

She quietly developed two sets of plans: one that reflected the limited

changes Ms Byles requested and another that illustrated what could be done by completely renovating and expanding the house, including demolishing the solarium, reorienting the main living spaces to take advantage of views to Mount Tamalpais and Richardson Bay and replacing the shingled exterior with an ex-

"Jennifer did that thing that architects do" when they want to convince their clients to dream bigger,

panse of glass and wood slats.

"She put this drawing in front of me and I don't think I spoke for a couple of minutes. I just thought, 'Oh my god, that's so much money.' But it was the architect in me that said, 'We have to do this.'

As Ms Byles' notion of funding a small renovation with her savings faded away, she took out a construction loan and found a houseboat to rent as a temporary home.

Construction began in summer 2015 and the house - now 226 sq m was completed by the end of 2016, at about US\$435 (S\$590) a square foot.

Ms Weiss' design resulted in a kitchen far larger, airier and with more dramatic views than Ms Byles had imagined, along with an open layout that promotes indooroutdoor living.

Hopper windows and seven operable skylights allow the house to be cooled entirely by air currents, eliminating the need for air-condition-

Landscaping and finishing touches took another year, and included planting 50 Japanese maple trees.

Ms Byles' father used to sell the trees and she had maintained a collection of 18 of them in pots for years. To complete the landscape, she asked her father to bring her one more, but he arrived with 32.

Although Ms Weiss designed the house, Ms Byles believes the experi-

ence has made her a better architect. "Every architect should be a client once," she said. "I have visceral empathy for my clients now. When you're writing cheques out of your personal account, it's a big deal."







What do a series of pedestrian walkways that weave through China's mountains, a toolkit for social care workers, a bright yellow factory building, and smart face-masks have in common?



**Enabling economic** 

A sunny yellow eight-storey building (top)

sits among industrial buildings in Sungei

Kadut's International Furniture Hub, its

bright hue a warm and welcoming re-

spite from the utilitarian greys of typical

Welcome to Sunray Woodcraft Con-

struction's headquarters, a winner of the

P\*DA's Design of the Year in 2015, imagined

and brought to life by 2018's Designer of

the Year, Ms Angelene Chan, CEO of DP

Ms Chan worked with Singapore's tropi-

cal environment to create a building design

that would cater to the different needs of

three groups of users: showroom and office

Factory production and warehouse

spaces have horizontal aluminium louvres

to provide shade from sun and rain while

letting in natural light and ventilation;

visitors, staff and production workers.

transformation

factory buildings.

Architects (DPA).

# BY RACHEL TAN

esign impact is design that is human-centric, and beautifully conceptualised and executed.

The President's Design Award (P\*DA), jointly organised by the DesignSingapore Council and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, celebrates the impact of design in enabling economic transformation; raising the quality of life; and advancing the Singapore brand, culture and connecting communities. The award also recognises ground-breaking achievements in the field



(left), co-director of SUTD-MIT International Design Centre, and head of the P\*DA 2018 knowledge partner team, shares more on exceptional that design goes beyond aesthetics.

What is good design?

Good design constitutes products, services, systems, or a combination, that emerge from designers' well-articulated values and beliefs, to tackle existing issues and create a transformative design impact on community, society, and people's

# How is design impact measured?

Some may be quantitative, such as an increase in economic value after a rebranding campaign, improved sustainability, or greater employee satisfaction after re-designing a workspace.

Others may be qualitative, such as increased positive sentiments, judgements in ethical sensitivities. and a sense of well-being.

# How does the measurement of impact change the way the P\*DA views good design?

The P\*DA now places greater emphasis on outcome-based design impact alongside the recognition of excellence in design craftsmanship.

Designers who bring together diverse skills and work collaboratively across disciplines to address complex issues are given greater recognition.



Above: A view of the elevated walkway as it weaves through the existing forest. ZHOU YUE DONG

Left: Sunray, Singapore ALVIN ARRE,

COURTESY OF **DP ARCHITECTS** 

the deep recesses between the boxed volumes provide people with more entry

penetrate the interior. The vertical aluminium louvres of the office space offer both shade and uninterrupted views, while the concrete façade of the showroom provides more control over lighting conditions. Tucked away at the rear, the workers' dormitory features vertical louvres with checkerboard apertures that let in natural ventilation while maintaining

and exit points, and allow more light to

By enabling a seamless flow of spaces and efficient movement of human traffic, Sunray's new headquarters is a perfect synthesis of DPA's preference for marrying design with the client's demands.

privacy, away from workshop activities.

Says Ms Chan: "It embodies the efficiency and pride Sunray has in its craft and raises the bar for similar developments in the surrounding Sungei Kadut area."

# Raising the quality of life



rigorously researching, interviewing, shadowing and filming 10 caregivers. It went on to clinch the 2018 Design of the Year.

Who Cares? is a design strategy of seven concepts — From Crises to Prizes, Smooth Care Touch Points, The WayForward Programme, Caregiver Wellbeing, Care Concierge, Compassionate Community and Empathetic Education — with solutions for the future of caregiving from products to services, tools, spaces, policies, programmes and campaigns.

For instance, From Crises to Prizes is a proposed service that supports caregivers when they are confronted with difficult behaviour from the person that they are caring for. Through an app, they can record, review and analyse such situations and work with trainers to learn how to deal with such crises in the future.

The seven concepts have varying levels of impact - from policy to personal which are effectively presented through user-friendly and visually powerful platforms that include a toolkit, a publication and seven short films.

The short films and book convey the personal stories of 10 caregivers, to enable audiences to better understand the complexity of an otherwise invisible and abstract issue.

The result: a remarkable vision for the future of caregiving, with several recommendations and ideas that were integrated into the latest edition of the five-vear Enabling Masterplan for Singapore.

## Advancing the SG brand, culture and connecting communities

A 19km-long bridge weaves through Jin Niu Shan in Fuzhou's historical San Fang Qi Xiang district — much like a dragon soaring through the mountains in a Chinese landscape painting. Around it, the lights of a dense cityscape flicker, revealing a seamless connection across both manmade and natural terrain.

This architectural marvel — which stretches from the north-eastern bank of the Minjiang River to the West Lake Park — is the China Fuzhou Jin Niu Shan Trans-Urban Connector, also known simply as Fudao, a winner of the Design of the Year in 2018 by LOOK Architects.

Led by LOOK Architects lead designer Look Boon Gee, the sustainable walkway system not only provides city dwellers with a much-needed link to the once inaccessible mountain forest, but also preserves the established ecology.

LOOK Architects architectural associate Loh Kin Kit says that they "preserved it as a 'green lung' that protects the ecological green space, which also contributes to the city in terms of providing fresh air".

This desire to safequard the landscape and habitat led to the use of galvanised steel grating in the walkway decks to allow sunlight to penetrate the ground level and encourage the growth of low-lying plants.

Additionally, the constant 1:16 gradient and wheelchair access ensures that it is a walkway for people of all abilities, with various modern conveniences like rest shelters, observatories and tea rooms with wash facilities

With 10 strategically located entrances, the connector also revitalises existing spaces. For example, the five-storey Jin Niu Shan Spiral Knoll ramp breathes new life into the disused plaza space of an indoor sports hall.

"Together, these strategies help to maximise and preserve the natural forested environment for the enjoyment of the residents of Fuzhou," says LOOK Architects architectural associate

Chua Liang Ping.

## **Ground**breaking achievements in design

Picture this: an airborne epidemic has plagued the city. Luckily, you have on hand a comfortable face-mask that not only fits both you and your child, but also eliminates the unpleasant build-up of heat, moisture and carbon dioxide after

prolonged use. The AIR+ Smart Mask and the Micro Ventilators, designed by the teams at Innosparks (a subsidiary of ST Engineering) and industrial design firm STUCK was a winner

of the Design of the Year in 2015. Innosparks sought to create breathable and well-fitting protective masks by measuring the face sizes of Asian adults and children aged seven years and older, as well as studying the breathing patterns of individuals and the airflow dynamics that

occur within masks when they are worn. The measurements collected were modelled on computers and run through mathematical simulations before prototypes were created using 3D printing technology. The most feasible designs were then fit tested on adults and children - they now come in small, medium and large sizes to fit typical Asian face profiles.

When paired with the Micro Ventilator (the AIR+), the AIR+ Smart Mask eliminates and dissipates the familiar moistness and heat discomfort users feel when exhalations get trapped between the face and mask.

Mr Donn Koh, lead industrial designer at STUCK, says creating the mask required the "simplification of the design to an optimum point where performance and functionality met and was hassle-free to use"

The result is a functional product with a "face-friendly" shape and neutral look that is pleasurable to use.

**Smart** Mask process: Exhalation flow

Air+

0

Above: Air+ Smart Mask with **Smart** Valve PHOTOS: INNOSPARKS

**TheChicHom** 

# A yen for tranquillity

Neutral colours and a simple aesthetic evoke the calm of Japanese interiors in this apartment

**Lynn Tan** 

Mr Benny Tan's decision to buy this Chuan Park condominium apartment hinged on whether an Lshaped wall in the kitchen could be removed.

The old kitchen was almost completely walled up and was encroaching on the dining space. The enclosed space was also somewhat dark, with the only source of natural light from windows at the end of the long kitchen.

He asked Mr Lawrence Puah, director of home-grown boutique interior design consultancy Akihaus Design Studio, to find out whether it was a load-bearing wall.

Having ascertained that it was a non-structural element and could be removed, Mr Tan, a 50-year-old translator, went ahead with the purchase.

The floor area is considered large for a one-bedroom unit, of which a significant portion is taken up by a generously sized balcony that wraps around the periphery of the 1,280 sq ft apartment, stretching from the living room to the bedroom.

The previous owner had extended the living room out into the balcony. This, and the subsequent removal of the kitchen wall, made a difference in terms of opening up the interior.

frequently travels there for translation, research and consultancy work, says: "I told Lawrence I wanted a Japanese theme for my home."

Mr Tan, who studied in Japan and

The three-month renovation cost about \$120,000 and he moved in in July 2017.

Mr Puah's design approach involved distilling, and re-interpreting, the key elements of Japanese interiors. The neutral palette, comprising mainly brown, off-white and grey hues, achieves a tranquillity that evokes a natural sense of calm – reminiscent of Japanese interiors.

The style is contemporary modern, but the restrained execution and uncluttered character reflect a pared-down simplicity that is synonymous with Japanese style.

Mr Tan originally wanted to split the bedroom, so that his 11-year-old son, Yew Shyan, who visits weekly, could have his own space

could have his own space.
But Mr Puah had another suggestion. "Instead of having two small bedrooms, I asked Benny to consider incorporating a movable screen, similar to a Japanese shoji, between the living and dining rooms," he says.

"This way, the living room could be partitioned into a temporary bedroom when the need arises."



The balcony gets an update with new textured paint on parapet walls and timber decking over the original tiled floor. PHOTOS: SPH MAGAZINES; ART DIRECTION: KAFFY TAN

Mr Tan is receptive to the idea but it has been put on hold, as there is a possibility that the condominium may be sold en bloc.

The original bathroom was attached to the bedroom and the apartment did not have a common bath.

As Mr Tan lives alone most of the time, it would not have been an issue, although a bathroom that is more accessible to guests would be useful.

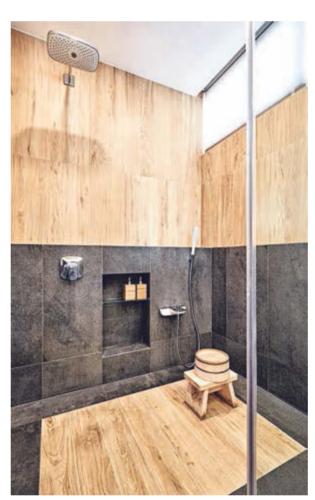
Hence, Mr Puah reconfigured the layout and introduced a corridor between the bedroom and bathroom, hence re-zoning the attached bathroom as a common one.

The corridor ends in the balcony behind the bedroom, thus providing common access to the outdoors.

This outdoor space has since been transformed from a neglected and under-utilised space into an inviting outdoor terrace where Mr Tan can have breakfast in the mornings or wind down in the evenings, while enjoying the panoramic city skyline.

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(Above) With the removal of a kitchen wall, more natural light is let into the apartment.

(Left) Wood-like tiles re-create the feel of a

wooden bath.



 This article first appeared in the December 2018 issue of Home & Decor, which is published by SPH Magazines.

• Get the January and latest issue of Home & Decor (left) now at all newsstands or download the digital edition of Home & Decor from the App Store, Magzter or Google Play. Also, see more inspiring homes at www.homeanddecor.com.sg

The A Sign of the Times exhibition

features quirky street signs, like this one by

Singapore artist Boon Baked, featuring a durian. ST PHOTO: SAHIBA CHAWDHARY



# Cheeky signs, dance segments at urban art fest

Desiree Loh

When visitors walk past Aliwal Street Car Park today, parking signs will not be the only street signs in sight. Instead, 40 signs by more than 30

local artists will adorn the space. One sign by Singapore artist Boon Baked features a durian holding up a "legalize" placard, a play on Singa-

pore's ubiquitous "no durian" signs. The cheeky work is part of A Sign of the Times, an exhibition curated by Kult Studio & Gallery for this year's Aliwal Urban Art Festival.

Ms Tulika Ahuja, 25, a curator at Kult, says: "Singapore is still quite conservative and there's an element of street art that's still sometimes frowned upon here, but these signs show how local artists can thrive within the boundaries."

thrive within the boundaries."
Held as part of Singapore Art
Week and organised by Aliwal Arts
Centre, the sixth edition of Singapore's quintessential urban art festival will also feature live music
sets, skateboarding competitions, a



street art tour and a streetwear and

"We want this to be a celebration

and showcase of urban art and

youth subcultures," says Mr Ken-

neth Chng, 35, centre manager of

For 31-year-old Darren "dt" Toh,

the festival is a chance for him to

counter misconceptions the public

may have about the urban dance

Besides curating The Real Deal

Showcase Ed.01, where student and

professional dance crews can show-

case their skills, the dance instruc-

tor has also organised a party seg-

ment. From 5 to 6.15pm, members

of the public can bust out their

moves to hip-hop, house and R&B

food market.

community.

Aliwal Arts Centre.

tunes provided by local DJ G.Mak. "People usually think we drink and

smoke at dance parties, but I want to show that it's more about dancers interacting with one another and exchanging styles," says Mr Toh. Festivalgoers looking for thrills

can also try their hand at flying mini drones through hoops attached to miniature mock-ups of Singapore landmarks such as the Esplanade. To facilitate live graffiti painting

demonstrations by festival mainstays urban art collective RSCLS, Aliwal Street will go car-free from noon.

With the road closures and variety of activities taking place, festival organisers are looking forward to a good turnout, says Mr Chng.

"We hope that through a platform like this festival, fellow Singaporeans can discover, embrace and enjoy the craft of our home-grown talents."

# VIEWIT/ALIWAL URBAN ART FESTIVAL

WHERE: Aliwal Arts Centre, 28 Aliwal Street, and the Kampong Glam precinct WHEN: Today, 4pm till late ADMISSION: Free









**GARFIELD** 



1.00 Blazing Team: Masters Of Yo Kwon Do

2.00 Zorro The Chronicles (HD) (S)

5.30 Zorro The Chronicles (HD) (S)

6.00 Word Whiz Or Slime Pit (S)

6.30 Museum Mysteries (S)

7.00 The Deep (HD) (CC) (S)

9.00 Sportsmax (HD) (Sports)

Glory (Jakarta) (PG13) (Sports)

12.30 Close

**SURIA** 

РΜ

9.30 Whacked Out Sports (PG) (V)

3.00 Juara Memasak Milenia (CC) (V)

7.00 Jenayah Tersembunyi (PG) (CC) (IE)

8.30 Sepahtu Reunion Live 2 (HD) (CC) (V)

9.30 Setia Menunggumu (PG) (CC) (D)

**4.00** Luar Biasa (PG) (CC) (M)

6.30 Kerjayaan Wanita: 8 Wanita

6.00 Tahu Nahu (S)

Singapura 2014 (CC) (IE)

7.30 Aku Seniman #1 (IE)

8.00 Berita (HD) (News)

11.00 Detik (PG) (CA)

12.00 Close

V: Variety

10.30 Extreme Roadtrip (IE)

11.30 Berita (HD) (News) (R)

C: Children; CA: Current Affairs;

CC: Closed Captions; Cul: Culture;

D: Drama; IE: Info-Ed; M: Movies;

P: Preschool; PG: Parental Guidance;

R: Repeat: S: Schoolkids: SC: Sitcom:

StarHub and Singtel TV. For pay TV

updates, go to www.starhub.com/tv or

Programme schedules correct at time of

printing. Telecast details from Mediacorp,

3.00 Future Card Buddyfight (HD) (CC)

3.30 CardFight! Vanguard G: Next (HD) (CC)

4.00 Bear Grylls Survival School (HD) (PG)

4.30 Blazing Team: Masters Of Yo Kwon Do

7.30 Future Card Buddyfight (HD) (CC) (S)

8.30 Bear Grylls Survival School (HD) (CC)

10.00 ONE Championship 2018/19: Eternal

8.00 CardFight! Vanguard G: Next (HD)





## CHANNEL 5

6.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 15 (HD) (PG)(V)

8.00 On The Red Dot - Old Enough! (CA) 8.30 Wheel Of Fortune 35 (HD) (V) 9.30 Secret Meat Business (IE) 10.00 Euromaxx (HD) (PG) (Cul) 10.30 Arts 21 (Cul)

12.00 Everyday Gourmet 3 (HD) (IE) 12.30 Films & Stars (PG) (V) 1.00 America's Got Talent 12 (HD) (PG) (V) 3.00 Little Big Shots: Forever Young (PG)

4.00 Revolution (HD) (PG) (V)

6.00 Hungry For Love (HD) (V) 6.30 The Simpsons 29 (HD) (PG) (SC) 7.00 Cine On 5: X-Men Origins: Wolverine

9.30 The Strangest Weather On Earth 2 (HD)(CC)

(PG13) (M) (Premiere) 12.00 The Shannara Chronicles (PG13) (D) 1.40 Grimm 5 (HD) (PG13) (D)

2.30 Timeless (HD) (PG) (D) 3.20 Worst Cooks In America 6 (HD) (PG)

5.10 The Dr Oz Show 8 (HD) (IE)

# **CHANNEL 8**

7.00 Portrait Of Home (D) (Finale) 9.00 DreamCorps (HD) (S) 9.30 Firerobo (S) 10.00 The Adventures Of Little Carp (S) 10.30 All New Jackie Chan Adventures (S) 11.00 The Love 97.2 Breakfast Quartet 2 (CC) (V) **PM** 

12.00 Foodie Sunday (V)  $\textbf{1.00}\,\mathsf{Golden}\,\mathsf{Age}\,\mathsf{Talentime}\,(\mathsf{HD})\,(\mathsf{CC})\,(\mathsf{V})$ 2.00 Challenge The Impossible 2 (HD) (V)

## 4.00 My Star Guide 13 (HD) (V) 4.30 Beyond Words (PG) (CC) (D) **6.30** Singapore Today (HD) (News) 7.00 Spring Flower (PG) (CC) (D)

9.00 The Sheng Siong Show 24 (V) 10.00 News Tonight (HD) 10.30 Saturday Cinema: Young Detective Dee: Rise Of The Sea Dragon (PG) (CC) (D)

2.55 Behind Every Job (IE) 3.50 The Ten Deadly Sins (PG13) (D) 4.15 The Deer And The Cauldron (HD) (PG)

# **CHANNEL U**

# AΜ

(D)

1.30 World Food (CC) (IE) 2.30 Artistic Journeys (IE) 3.00 Golden Rainbow (PG) (CC) (D) 5.00 Lady With Class (PG) (CC) (D) 7.00 Puzzle Masters (V)

11.00 News Tonight 11.30 Puzzle Masters (V)

2.30 Close

# CNA

# ΑM

7.00 News Now

7.30 Correspondents' Diary 8.00 News Now

8.30 Welcome 2 Taiwan: Taiwan Holiday 9.00 News Now

10.02 Insight 11.00 News Now

12.30 Asia Business First Weekend 1.02 Conversation With

1.30 Super Octogenarians 2.00 News Now

(English Subtitles) 3.00 News Now

(HD)(S)

(HD)(S)



1.30 Nature Cat (HD) (S)

2.30 The Deep (HD) (S)

5.00 Nature Cat (HD) (S)





# Free to air

7.00 The Dr Oz Show 8 (HD) (IE)

11.00 Worst Cooks In America 6 (HD) (PG)

5.00 Designer In The House 2 (HD) (V)

5.30 Divided (US) (HD) (PG) (V)

(PG) (M) 9.00 News Tonight (HD)

10.00 Scary Scary Saturday: The Visit

4.20 Wheel Of Fortune 35 (HD) (V)

# 6.00 Neighbourhood Chef 2 (HD) (V)

1.05 My Amazing Bride (PG) (CC) (D)

10.00 Fantastic Baby 2 (V) 11.30 Shoot It 2 (IE)

12.30 Blue Tick (PG) (CC) (D)

9.00 The Entertainer (PG) (CC) (D) (Debut)

1.30 Lord Of Shanghai (PG) (CC) (D)

# . . . . . . . . . .

6.00 Singapore Tonight

9.30 Asia Business First Weekend

11.30 Conversation With

**12.00** News Now

2.30 Welcome 2 Taiwan: Taiwan Holiday

3.30 Asia Business First Weekend

# : 4.02 Insight

7.00 Chinese Restaurant 2 (HD) 9.00 The King's Woman (HD)

12.00 Hot Door Night XV (HD)
1.00 Mr Player VII (HD) 3.00 Singer 2019 (HD) 5.00 Viva La Romance (HD) 6.30 Gourmet Guides (HD) 7.00 Perfect Match 6 (HD)

1.00 Perfect Match VI (HD)

# **HUB SPORTS 1 (CHANNEL 201)**

7.00 Tennis: ATP 500 Erste Bank Open 2018 Day 6 Semi-finals

Singapore Open Day 3 4.30 Tennis: Deuce 2018 **5.00** Table Tennis: Seamaster 2019 ITTF World Tour Hungarian Open: Women's

9.00 Tennis: ATP World Tour Uncovered 2019/9.30 Volleyball Nations League 2018 Men's Final Rounds - Finals

12.00 Table Tennis: Seamaster 2019 ITTF World Tour Hungarian Open: Men's Quarter-finals, Women & Men's Doubles

# **HUB SPORTS 2 (CHANNEL 202)**

# ΑM

8.00 National Basketball League Round 14 Illawarra Hawks Vs New Zealand Breakers 10.00 Asean Basketball League 2018/19 San Miguel Alab Pilipinas Vs Macau Black Bears

12.00 Magazine: Omnisport.TV 12.30 Football: EFL Championship 2018

3.30 Wrestling: WWE Bottomline (PG) Round 2 Cape Town Highlights 7.30 Magazine: Omnisport.TV

8.00 Wrestling: WWE Afterburn (PG)

9.00 Football: EFL Championship 2018

Matchday 28 Norwich City Vs Birmingham 11.00 Football: EFL Championship 2018 Matchday 28 Middlesbrough Vs Millwall

1.00 Magazine: Omnisport.TV 1.30 Football: EFL Championship 2018 Matchday 28 Swansea City Vs Sheffield United (Live)

# 12.00 News Now

10.30 Money Mind

AM

5.00 News Now

5.30 Edible Wild

6.00 News Now

**6.30** Made In Singapore

8.30 Correspondents' Diary

9.02 A Big Little Murder (CC)

10.00 Singapore Tonight

8.00 Primetime Asia

7.02 Japan Hour (English Subtitles)

11.02 Japan Hour (English Subtitles)

12.30 Conversation With 1.02 Correspondents' Diary

1.30 Money Mind 2.00 News Now 2.30 Asia Business First Weekend

3.02 Insight 4.00 News Now

5.02 A Big Little Murder Programmes may be pre-empted by breaking news

# **VASANTHAM**

4.30 Money Mind

1.00 Vasantham Gold: Deivam (PG) (M) 4.00 Bollywood Masti: Khalnayak (PG) (Hindi) (M)

7.00 Thirai Express (HD) (CC) (V) 8.00 Vera Level (HD) (CC) (IE) 8.30 Tamil Seithi (News) 9.00 Tamil Silver Screen: Kaali (PG) (CC) (M)

12.00 Tamil Seithi (News) (R)

# 12.30 Close **OKTO**

# ΑМ

7.00 Tip The Mouse (P) 8.00 Elias: Rescue Team Adventures (HD)

8.30 Super Wings (HD) (P) 9.00 Robocar Poli Fire Safety (S) 9.30 Metalions (S)

10.00 Pokemon The Series: Sun And Moon

10.30 Smurfs (HD) (S) **11.00** Lego Ninjago – Sons Of Garmadon (HD)(S) 11.30 Extreme Football (HD) (S)

12.00 Totally Totto (HD) (S) 12.30 Fableicious (HD) (PG) (S)

www.singteltv.com.sg

6.50 Top 20 Funniest

12.05 Final Destination 1.50 Horrible Bosses 2

6.35 Young Sheldon 2

7.00 Sucker Punch 9.00 Blindspot 4

1.05 Friends 9 1.30 Supergirl 2

# **COMEDY CENTRAL ASIA**

8.10 Mr Bean 9.10 Most Ridiculous 9.35 Billy On The Street 5

10.05 Your Face Or Mine 4 10.30 Most Ridiculous 2 12.40 The Goldbergs 5

2.20 Corporate 3.10 Detroiters

> **5.40** Your Face Or Mine 3 6.30 Most Ridiculous 2 7.20 Jeff Ross Presents Roast Battle 3 8.35 Above Average Presents 8.45 Just For Laughs Gags 14

12.25 Inside Amy Schumer 1.05 Jeff Ross Presents Roast Battle 3 **2.20** South Park 22

# JIA LE (HD) (CHANNEL 502)

6.00 Stylish Man 7.00 Super Nightclub 8.30 Top Singers 10.00 All Out Of Love

1.00 Super Nightclub 2.30 All Out Of Love 4.30 Top Singers 6.00 Stylish Man 7.00 All Out Of Love 9.00 The Legend Of Golden Music 10.00 Hua Hee Seko-Lah 5

12.00 Stylish Man

You need to deal with family issues and your emotional energy is perfect for such matters.

more in touch with your feelings than usual.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Your spirit double is watching out for you, so it might be harder for you to get in trouble.

**Leo** (July 23 - Aug 22) Your people do not want to cooperate. All you need is

Your social network is also a safety net, so you find that your energy is best spent helping others.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) You need to show some adaptability and say yes to a

plan you had once said no to. It means a lot.

Get out in the world. If you cannot fly overseas, at least plan for something big.

your own thing until you snap back.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Everyone seems to be freaking out, but it is nothing so terrible - just a wee bit of mass hysteria.

You are over-thinking a big problem, so just take a step back and try to see things differently.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20) Write down your feelings. Your notes are a part of the

Provided by Astrology.com (www.astrology.com)

# **Radio**

# KISS92 (TODAY)

6.00 Desiree Lai

8.00 Jill Lim

# KISS92 (TOMORROW)

6.00 American Top 40 With Ryan Seacrest

# 12.00 Jill Lim

6.00 Cheryl Miles

# **ONE FM 91.3 (TOMORROW)**

# 12.00 Harry Corro

# **MONEY FM 89.3 (WEEKENDS)**

# 7.00 Weekend Mornings With Jason Dasey

# SUN RISE/SET TIME: 7.14am/7.17pm

MOON RISE/SET TIME: 5.25pm/4.57am

TIDES TODAY: Singapore: 2.58am (1.6m), 8.58am (2.9m), 3.37pm (0.6m), 11pm (2.7m). Desaru: 2.58am (2m), 7.46am (2.5m), 2.56pm (0.8m), 10.31pm (2.8m). Port Dickson: 5.14am (2.6m), 12.08pm (0.7m), 5.34pm (2.1m). Mersing: 2.41am (2.1m), 6.55am (2.4m), 2.02pm (0.9m), 9.45pm (3.2m).

TIDES TOMORROW: Singapore: 3.52am (1.6m), 9.48am (3.1m), 4.22pm (0.4m), 11.45pm (2.9m). Desaru: 3.54am (2m), 8.37am (2.6m), 3.46pm (0.6m), 11.20pm (2.9m). Port Dickson: 12.03am (0.3m), 6am (2.7m), 1.06pm (0.6m), 6.28pm (2.3m). Mersing: 3.45am (2.1m), 7.56am (2.4m), 2.59pm (0.7m), 10.34pm (3.4m).

# StarHub TV

8.30 Pawn Stars 19

4.25 The Pickers 11

6.15 Counting Cars 5

6.40 Storage Wars 12

7.10 The Curse Of Oak Island 5

5.20 Road Hauks

# **HISTORY (CHANNEL 401)**

9.00 Swamp Mysteries With Troy Landry 9 55 Alone 4 **10.50** Big Easy Motors 11.20 JFK Declassified: Tracking Oswald

12.15 Hunting ISIS 1.10 The Hunt For The Zodiac Killer 2.05 Swamp Mysteries With Troy Landry 3.00 Alone 4 3.55 Storage Wars: Texas 6

8.05 History Drama: Project Blue Book 9.00 History Drama: Vikings 5 9.55 Monster Motor Challenge

## 1.35 History Drama: Project Blue Book .....

1.00 This Time Next Year

**LIFETIME (CHANNEL 514)** 9.00 Married At First Sight Australia 4 **12.00** Born This Way 2

1.55 Little Girl's Secret 3.30 A Father's Nightmare **5.05** Gok's Fill Your House For Free 6.00 Married At First Sight US 4 **9.00** Arranged 2

10.00 A Surrogate's Nightmare

12.30 Married At First Sight Australia 4

11.35 My Haunted House 3

**HBO (CHANNEL 601)** 

8.50 Ingrid Goes West (NC16) 10.25 The Jungle Book 12.10 The Big Short (NC16) 2.15 Going In Style (2017) (NC16) 3.50 The Lego Ninjago Movie 5.30 Johnny English Reborn

7.10 The Mummy (2017) (NC16)

10.30 True Detective 3 (NC16)

9.00 Braven (NC16)

# 12.30 12 Strong (NC16)

**CINEMAX (CHANNEL 611)** 

7.00 Pale Rider 8.55 Big Momma's House 2 (NC16) 10.35 Mission To Mars

12.30 The Art Of War 2.25 Killing Gunther (NC16) 4.00 The One/5.30 Star Wars: Episode II -Attack Of The Clones 7.50 Patriots Day (NC16) **10.00** Joy Ride (NC16) 11.40 Strike Back 4 (M18)

# **HUB E CITY (CHANNEL 825)**

10.30 Noble Aspirations (HD)

8.45 StarHub Night Of Stars (HD) 11.15 Happy Camp 2 (HD)

12.00 Golf: Asian Tour 2019 SMBC

Semi-finals, Men's Quarter-finals & Mixed **Doubles Finals** 

7.30 Magazine: The Burning Issue

Matchday 28 Norwich City Vs Birmingham City/2.30 Fiba World Basketball 2019 3.00 The Football Review 4.30 National Basketball League Round 14 Brisbane Bullets Vs Cairns Taipans (Live) 6.30 Rugby: HSBC Sevens Series 2018/19 7.00 Magazine: Spartan Barcelona 2018

(Live)

# **Singtel TV**

## **CARTOON NETWORK** (CHANNEL 226)

**6.00** Oggy & The Cockroaches **7.00** The Tom And Jerry Show 8.00 Teen Titans Go! 9.00 We Bare Bears 9.30 Transformers: Cyberverse

11.00 OK K.O.! Let's Be Heroes

**1.30** Running Man Animation

11.30 Ben 10 12.00 Unikitty 12.30 The Amazing World Of 1.00 Craig Of The Creek

10.00 Craig Of The Creek

2.00 We Bare Bears 2.30 The Powerpuff Girls 3.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches 3.30 Supernoobs

4.00 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of

Berk 5.00 Transformers: Cyberverse 5.30 Teen Titans Go! 6.00 OK K.O.! Let's Be Heroes **6.30** Ben 10

8.00 Running Man Animation

9.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches

7.00 Craig Of The Creek

9.30 We Bare Bears

1.00 Supernoobs

2.00 Adventure Time

10.00 Regular Show 10.30 Steven Universe 11.00 Clarence 11.30 Adventure Time

12.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches

3.00 The Amazing World Of

Gumball 4.00 We Bare Bears 5.00 Grizzy And The Lemmings AXN (HD) (CHANNEL 304)

ΑM 6.00 The Amazing Race 30 **7.40** The Karate Kid (2010) **10.05** MacGyver 3 10.55 Hawaii Five-09 11.45 Team Ninja Warrior 2 1.25 The Blacklist 6

3.55 Hawaii Five-09 4.45 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders 6.25 Caught On Camera With Nick Cannon 2 7.15 Team Ninja Warrior 2

2.15 Seal Team 2

3.05 MacGyver 3

8.55 MacGyver 3

**11.25** MacGyver 3

AM

Cannon 2

5.10 MacGyver 3

**9.45** Hawaii Five-0 9

10.35 The Blacklist 6

12.00 Supernatural 14 12.50 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders 2.30 The Amazing Race 30 4.20 Caught On Camera With Nick

# WARNER TV (HD) (CHANNEL 306)

**9.25** Gotham 5 10.15 The Incredible Burt Wonderstone

3.40 Top 20 Funniest 2 5.20 Race To The Scene 6.10 The Big Bang Theory 12

# **9.50** Batman

(HD) (CHANNEL 324) 6.00 Takeshi's Castle 4 7.15 Just For Laughs Gags 13

11.20 Jeff Goldblum Basic Bro 12.10 Just For Laughs Gags 14 1.30 Hot In Cleveland 5 1.55 The Comedy Jam 4.00 The Goldbergs 5 4.50 Hot In Cleveland 5 **5.15** The Comedy Jam

9.10 Jeff Goldblum Basic Bro 10.00 Saturday Night Live 44 10.40 Funny As Hell 3 11.35 The Jim Jefferies Show

# 4.20 The Daily Show 24

12.00 Stylish Man

10.30 The Golden Melodies 2018

# TheStarsSav

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Let that special person know how you feel. You are

**Gemini** (May 21 - June 20) You are less willing than usual to go along with others' ideas, so bow out rather than bring the mood down.

to get at least one of them to see the value of peace. Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You are feeling a bit out of sorts. You just need to do

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

poem that is your life and they might inspire you.

12.00 Charmaine Yee

**ONE FM 91.3 (TODAY)** 

# 12.00 Harry Corro

# **Tides**

For updates and more details, call Meteorological Service Singapore, NEA, on 6542-7788 or go to www.nea.gov.sg

# PM Lee takes on #10YearChallenge

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's #10YearChallenge post has drawn more than 26,000 likes on Instagram.

In the post put up on Thursday, he compares two photos of himself from 2009 and this year, saying: "I kid myself that not much has changed after 10 years, other than my hair colour and hair line!

"My hair is greyer and thinner, but I'm still enjoying what I do."

The photo on the left side shows a younger PM Lee in a polo shirt with

the words Teck Ghee on it. Teck Ghee is in Ang Mo Kio GRC, where PM Lee is a Member of Parlia-

On the right, PM Lee wears another polo shirt and smiles into the camera. His crow's feet are more prominent and his hair has greyed considerably.

Most Facebook users reacted favourably, with user Bee Ong-Goh commenting: "Loving the lighter side of you sir!" Another user, Ambrose Tan, said: "More and more happy and handsome."

PM Lee's Instagram account has more than 362,000 followers while his Facebook account has more than 1.2 million.

Other politicians have also joined in, with Home Affairs and Law Minister K. Shanmugam and Speaker of Parliament Tan Chuan-Jin posting variations of the challenge on their Facebook pages.

Celebrities, from radio DJ Jean Danker to actor Elvin Ng, have also jumped on the bandwagon. The 10-Year Challenge went viral on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram earlier this year. On Instagram, the hashtag #10YearChallenge has more than 2.7 million posts.

But one celebrity, Mariah Carey, has perhaps won the most attention with her cheeky take on the

Posting two similar pictures of herself posing with pup Cha Cha, she wrote: "I don't get this 10-year challenge, time is not something I acknowledge. Picture taken at some point prior to today."

That breezy comment has prompted other netizens to express the same defiant sentiment.

One person, for example, wrote: "My ex-boyfriend: Surely you've forgiven me after all this time? Me: Time is not something I acknowledge."







Actress Michelle Chong (left) and DJ Glenn Ong (right) in their #10YearChallenge posts.

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/IMMICHELLECHONG, INSTAGRAM/GLENNN

# Abloh's LV designs inspired by Michael Jackson

PARIS • There was steam rising from manholes while celebrities, including supermodel Naomi Campbell, sat on doorsteps.

On Thursday, Louis Vuitton recreated a nocturnal New York city-scape to present designer Virgil Abloh's latest Michael Jacksoninspired collection in Paris.

Parent group LVMH spared no expense to promote the brand – at a time when menswear is on the up – by creating the set.

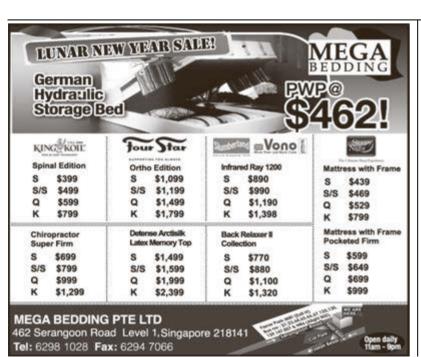
It is betting on Abloh – a friend of singer Kanye West and a DJ-turned-designer who helped make hoodies a luxury staple – to broaden Vuitton's reach with male shoppers, as it pushes menswear at its Christian Dior, Celine and Givenchylabels too.



The collection featured nods to the late King of Pop, though aside from the sparkling gloves and widebrimmed fedora hats that were among Jackson's trademarks, most looks were more subtle, in a range with heavy doses of beige and grey.

They included coats with a military cut, for instance, or leather jackets in a bold red often favoured by Jackson, who was described in show notes as "light years ahead of his time" in the way he carved out his style and identity.

Luxury groups are experiencing a boom in menswear sales, traditionally a smaller sideline, thanks to a streetwear trend reflected in the success of items such as pricey sneakers. REUTERS Virgil Abloh showed his menswear for Louis Vuitton at Paris Fashion Week on Thursday. PHOTOS: EPA-EFE







NO EARRINGS FOR MEN: The censors in China are getting an earful from outraged netizens. Fans of some male Chinese celebrities are upset over the authorities' removal – through digital manipulation – of the earrings worn by the stars when they appeared in soap operas and variety shows on popular online video platform iQiyi.

The celebrities targeted so far include teen heart-throb Wang Linkai and superstar actor Jing Boran (above), reported Daily Mail.

It is unclear why the censors have widened the list of practices they deem unsuitable, with the no-nos including tattoos and heavily dyed hair. There is no official word that earrings for male artists have been

banned, noted the Shanghaiist lifestyle portal.

Speculating over what the censors might do next in their drive to weed out "alternative cultures", one netizen sarcastically wrote: "Moving forward, all female stars will be asked to wear skirts that cover their knees; after that, all male stars will be asked to have shaved heads and all female stars short hair." PHOTO: WEIBO/NEIMUJUN



Mr Lorenzo Rudolf is married to Ms Maria Elena (both above), who is vice-president of Art Stage Singapore. PHOTO: ST FILE

# 5 things about Art Stage founder Lorenzo Rudolf

# Akshita Nanda

Arts Correspondent

Art Stage Singapore, considered the country's main contemporary art fair, was cancelled on Wednesday, just nine days before its public opening. The news sent shockwaves through the art community and many are still puzzled about what caused the last-minute cancellation. Here are five things to know about the event's Swiss founder Lorenzo Rudolf, who is 60 this year.

# HE IS A LAWYER BY TRAINING

Mr Rudolf read law at the University of Bern before moving into public relations.

2

# HE HAD A HAND IN MANY INTERNATIONAL ART FAIRS

Mr Rudolf transformed Swiss art fair Art Basel from a quiet trade fair into a glamorous art event.

He helmed the fair from 1991 to 2000 and, at the end of his term, the event had a waiting list of around 700 galleries. The brand is still esteemed by dealers, artists and collectors of contemporary art.

There are now three signature Art Basel fairs – in Basel, Hong Kong and Miami Beach in the United States, with the last renowned for starting party season in Miami and attracting celebrities such as singer-producer Pharrell Williams and rapper Cardi B.

Mr Rudolf also launched contemporary art fair SH Contemporary in Shanghai in 2007, which became known as one of the region's most important art events. He left SH Contemporary in 2009, citing differences among the partners. The fair ended its run in 2013.

# 3

# HE IS ALSO A BIG NAME IN THE BOOK WORLD

Mr Rudolf left Art Basel to run the Frankfurt Book Fair from 2000 to 2003. This is one of the book world's most important trade events, attracting thousands of exhibitors and hundreds of thousands of visitors.



# HE IS MARRIED TO AN ECUADOR-BORN SOCIOLOGIST

Ms Maria Elena, 61, who is vice-president at Art Stage Singapore, is usually in charge of VIP relations.

They have been together for 28 years and have three children.



# HE HAS CANCELLED FAIRS BEFORE

In 2016, Mr Rudolf announced a sister art fair in Indonesia, Art Stage Jakarta, which held its first edition in August that year. But it was cancelled in May last year, after just two editions.

He cited concerns over unspecified security issues and added that the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia "may affect the national customs system, causing possible additional constraints".

Hints of trouble at Art Stage Singapore began to emerge in December 2017 when, at a press conference for the eighth edition, Mr Rudolf said his team had brought in more than 500 galleries to the Singapore fair since 2011, but many refused to return, citing poor sales and sales only to those already established as collectors.

"We have a market that's very, very weak and in eight years, it has not grown," he had said then.

A month later, at the opening of Art Stage Singapore 2018, he said that Singapore was losing ground to art markets in the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. He blamed the high cost of living and doing business in Singapore, compared with its neighbours, and the lack of "art production" in the city.

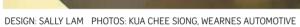


**HOLDS ITS OWN** Citroen's DS7 Crossback is small but mighty D16&17

**HOT BUGATTI** 60 per cent increase in sales here **D18** 











Jaguar's electric I-Pace not only has an impressive range, but is also extremely quick and nimble. Christopher Tan reports. D12&13



# I-Pace is an ace

Jaguar's first electric car makes going green fun, painless and quite fashionable



THE STRAITS TIMES | SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

**Christopher Tan Senior Correspondent** 

700Nm of torque - all available mindless ease too.

plenty of liberties in any situation. of gravity, wide tracks, all-wheel- peculiarly soft brakes – to allow oth-Its top speed is limited though (in drive and a battery bank acting as ers to pass. In doing so, you are also lithium-ion battery pack, giving the this case, to 200kmh), which ballast, it is a natural around bends. recharging the battery cells. means it might lose out on an unre- Its sturdy steering and firm – if a lit- Because the car affords an insane tric vehicles tested here. A car like the Jaguar I-Pace makes stricted highway or a race circuit – tle reactive – suspension setting level of torque and responsiveness, you a better driver, in more ways both of which are in short supply contribute too.

The electric Jag, styled like a low- But in real-world motoring, the I- Pace does not always goad you to go The story is completely different of at least 300km. Under the new slung crossover, is stupendously Pace will lane-change, merge, over- fast. To the contrary, it is likely to for a combustion-engined car. Or a Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehitake and fill gaps in the shortest pos- make you more gracious, since giv- lesser electric model. Its sizzling 4.8-second century sible notice. It grants you immediing way will not cost very much. sprint aside, the car has nearly acy like no other carrier and with In high-regenerative mode, lift- ered motors driving both axles, the from the word go - to grant it And endowed with a low centre without you having to activate the wheels.

picking up from where you left off clocked 250km, with some 60km re-

As incredibly speedy as it is, the I- is absolutely painless.

ing off slows the car down enough - Jag has 400hp going to all its quite adequate, even for those who

Juice comes from a 90kWh car the longest range among all elec-Over a four-day test-drive, it

maining – translating to a full range cle Test Procedure, the car has a Equipped with two high-pow-range of 470km.

In reality, a range of 300km is wish to drive to Malaysia, where many of the major cities have charg- bulky drivetrain.

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ing facilities. top of an enormous boot).

Whether over a long or short haul, the car's luxury status, with fittings, tricity charges. As it has far fewer life in the I-Pace is rather pleasant. quality of materials and amenities moving parts than a petrol Jag, it re-The car is decked out like a conon a par with cars in the \$300,000 quires servicing once every two cept car, with an ultra-chic cockpit segment. Its silence and refinement years or 34,000km.

ties: push buttons that replace those in the \$1-million segment. nual road tax of \$5,800. Jaguar's familiar rotary gear selec- Its credentials as a crossover ex- All said, the I-Pace is an ace – a car tor; nautical-style captain seats up tend beyond its styling. The I-Pace which embodies fun, frugality and front; a slimmer dashtop; and is equipped with a slew of traction the future. plenty of stylish storage spaces (on aids and has an impressive wading depth of 500mm.

cost. The average driver here will in-The cabin commensurates with cur only about \$20 a week of elec-

showcasing new design possibili- on the go, however, surpass even These offset its rather high an-

All these because there is no The other bonus is its low running christan@sph.com.sg



I-Pace's low centre of gravity, wide

and battery

bends. Its ultra-chic

CHEE SIONG





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S Shopee recmart



ITOBACS







Car models such as the BMW i8 already offer laser light options. PHOTO:

# The headlight of the future is a laser

Laser-based lighting system is said to be 10 times brighter than LED lights, but will not blind oncoming traffic

# **Brett Berk**

NEW YORK • Most people don't turn on their car's headlights and think, I wish they were brighter. Professor Shuji Nakamura is not

most people. The Nobel Prize-winning illumination scientist has spent the past five years developing a laser-based lighting system. His company, SLD Laser, says the

new design is 10 times brighter than today's LED lights, capable of illuminating objects a kilometre away while using less power than any current technology.

And unlike a regular, dumb headlight, the laser can potentially be integrated into current and forthcoming driver-assistance systems.

As cars move towards more enhanced and powerful semi-autonomous systems, which rely not only on constant cloud computing for their decision-making but also on clear forward "vision" through their cameras and sensors, light and data transmission will have huge implications for driver safety.

SLD's laser can also transmit data via Li-Fi, which is similar to Wi-Fi but utilises light and transmits data faster. The company has yet to fully develop this capability, but says it is in the works.

During a night-time demonstration at the Apex OHV Recreational Area outside Las Vegas, we toyed with flashlights built with the new technology. The precise beam easily illuminated the craggy edges of distant mountains. A light bar mounted to an off-road truck brilliantly exposed the washboard ruts, sandy hills and gravel beds during a fiendish blast through the desert.

All of this luminosity leads to an obvious question: How are these devices, which have the approximate wattage of the klieg spotlights commonly found outside world premieres, supposed to be safely installed in the front of a car without inadvertently blinding oncoming

"Because of the point source nature of the beam, you can pinpoint the light," said Prof Nakamura. "You can even shape it dynamically on the fly, so the beam will go down or to the right, away from the eyes of motorists."

While cars like the BMW i8 and Audi R8 already offer laser light options, the technology will appear in more models this year, such as BMW's 5-series and M cars.

But observers reckon a more widespread adoption will depend on how fast regulations evolve and how uniform those regulations are.

The lack of consistency increases vehicle production costs because of the higher price of customising individual parts. (Laser headlights have about the same consumer costs as current LED headlamps, in the low four-figure range.)

SLD has developed something of a workaround for the home market while it lobbies United States regulators to change automotive lighting standards.

"We are working instead on what we call a high-beam boost, where we add laser light to the high-beam headlights in a car," Prof Nakamura

"Though we have to tone down the brightness for the American market, we are still three times brighter than LED lights."

The company is also developing products for off-road vehicles, interior automotive lights and daytime running lights.

In the interim, Prof Nakamura will be licensing the technology in other products for the US market: home lighting, stadium lighting, photography and adventure applications, to name a few.

But he remains certain that laser lights will eventually triumph, just as LEDs have.

"Soon, laser will become the premium option," he said. "And it will eventually find its way into the mass market." BLOOMBERG

# A fun and fuss-free ride

# Milanese scooter brand offers affordability, efficiency and old-school styling in the V200

 $lines\,is\,strong\,and\,predictable.$ 

In the end, I am willing to accept

some performance trade-offs in re-

turn for long-term savings, espe-

cially when the V200 can cover 100km on less than 2.9 litres of fuel.

If you think orange is a colour

that attracts too much attention,

there are more subtle options, such

as black, brown, blue and white.

**Zaihan Mohamed Yusof** 

A "new" old scooter brand has joined the pool of neo-classics on Singapore roads.

Lambretta of Milan, which was here in the 1960s, has marked its return with the V200 Special. The model is expected to compete with scooters like Vespa's Primavera and Scomadi's Turismo Leggera.

The 169cc, four-stroke V200 bears a striking resemblance to the first two-stroke scooters which Lambretta rolled out seven decades ago.

The fixed front fender, grilled horn cover and small dashboard are reminiscent of the brand's TV and LI series. Older riders will appreciate that the V200 wears the Innocenti SA badge – the name of the Swiss-based brand owner.

The bright orange test scooter was eye-catching with its angular design and matt black trimming.

While longish engine covers help the model mimic its predecessors, the V200's sloped floorboard and flat-as-a-pancake seat departs from Lambretta's styling cues.

Yet, the V200 retains attributes that make it attractive to scooter die-hards. First, the inexpensive \$6,950 machine price. Second, it is fun and fuss-free to operate. The lack of clutter at the controls

is pleasing, with small buttons for the turn indicators, high beam, electric starter, horn and trip meter re-

A twist of the ignition key to the right opens a compartment below the handlebar to reveal stash space for your wallet and smartphone.

Turn the key the other way and the seat unlocks to reveal a 6-litre fuel tank, including storage space for a full-face helmet. A rear foldable rack adds carry-on capability.

At 1.78m tall, the soles of my feet rest flat on the tarmac when I am astride the V200.

The fuel-efficient V200's performance figures are slightly lower than its rivals in the same class.

With about 12bhp at 8,000rpm and a torque of 12.2Nm at 5,500rpm, it can reach a top speed of around 100kmh. Its air-cooled engine wakes up from 4,500rpm. Below that, it feels docile.

But you can still have some fun with it. As traffic grinds to a still, the narrow V200 will manoeuvre faithfully to the front without grazing the side mirrors of cars.

On snaking roads, the V200 shows off its nifty side. It turns instinctively at the drop of a dime, thanks in part to its steering geometry and 134kg dry weight.

Still, you will get quicker corner exits if you go into bends with some throttle while applying your brakes gingerly.

Modern telescopic forks and dual rear shocks give the V200 a more comfortable ride. But like most scooters equipped with small, 12-inch wheels, you will still feel imperfect tarmac.

During emergency braking, the V200, which possesses both antilock and combined brake systems, does not disappoint. Braking power coursing through its steel-braided

SPECS/LAMBRETTA V200 **SPECIAL** 

Price: \$6,950 without COE and insurance

Engine: 169cc 2-valve air-cooled

single-cylinder four-stroke **Transmission:** Continuously

variable transmission, belt driven Power: 12bhp at 8,000rpm

Torque: 12.2Nm at 5,500rpm

0-100kmh: 12 seconds

(estimated)

 $\textbf{Top\,speed:}\,100kmh$ 

Fuel consumption: 2.9 litres/100km

Agent: SACQ Motorcycles



The 169cc, four-stroke V200 resembles the first two-stroke scooters which Lambretta rolled out seven decades ago. ST PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG



Review of the Lambretta V200 Special

http://str.sg/ lambretta





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Power: 225hp at 5,500rpm Torque: 300Nm at 2.750rpm **0-100kmh:** 8.9 seconds

Top speed: 236kmh Fuel consumption: 5.9 litres/100km Agent: Cycle & Carriage France

# A lot of car for the buck

Citroen's DS7 Crossback offers a calming drive and plenty of features



THE STRAITS TIMES | SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

**Christopher Tan** 

**Senior Correspondent** 

made its latest mid-sized DS7 Cross- gold, its signature colour. back bigger than it actually is.

on the road as its Q7.

With a brash mesh grille flanked cells that swivel into position as you nappa leather upholstery lines alnot left out. The right and left seats

But the French carrier is quite a lot is among the best sampled here.)

While brands like BMW and Porsche unlock the car) and a front bumper most every surface of the interior. can be reclined at the touch of a but-The French crossover-ish five- the DS7 Crossback is priced accord- as navigation and sound system. seater is a mite smaller than Audi's ing to its surface area, which, de-Q5, but appears almost as imposing spite its rather compact footprint, dane at all. The Focal system, with a But the DS7 more than makes up.

is actually surprisingly substantial. subwoofer beneath the floorboard, by LED headlamps (with individual of car for the buck too. Quilted Occupants in the second row are

have made their full-sized sport util- designed like the swooping mouth The cockpit and centre console ton. Passengers here get their own ity vehicles (SUVs) seem smaller of a manta ray, the car holds its own are right out of a concept car – ultra- climate control console too. These than they are – by way of design wiz- among its most stylish rivals – espe- modern, with an immense touch- are features you normally find in a ardry - Citroen's luxe division has cially when dressed in turmeric screen to access functions from \$400,000 car. At nearly \$180,000, it may seem seats to more mundane things such with the extravagance is the rear door hinges, which appear rudimensteering wheel. There is adaptive overly soft. cruise control with lane-keeping as- Its drivetrain is equally impres- drive which is calming – a trait you sist. Parking assist is also on hand. sive. Although its 1.6-litre turbo is fa- will find in a big-capacity cruiser But if you want to park manually, miliar, it is reworked to push out an with ample reserves. The fact that the car's 360-degree camera sys- incredible 225hp and 300Nm. The Citroen has managed this with a

At the helm, the driver gets a plush tion which is soothing, but not easy progress rather than outright

tem makes the manoeuvre a cinch. massive output powers the front 1,598cc power plant is nothing Most impressive, though, is the wheels via an unobtrusive eight- short of astounding. car's active suspension, which is speed autobox, sending the DS to And with enough features and furmodulated by a high-speed camera 100kmh in 8.9 seconds and onto a nishing even a Bentley owner and a battery of sensors. It is active top speed of 236kmh. between 12kmh and 112kmh, and in A more bristling performance not to like about the car. all drive modes except Eco.

could have been attained with

might approve of, there is very little

Crossback is stylish with its brash mesh grille flanked by LED headlamps and a front designed like the swooping mouth of a manta rav. Its immense touchscreen allows access to functions like mood lighting and five-mode massage seats. ST PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG



# **TorqueShop**

How can electric vehicles (EVs), in particular electric passenger cars, increase their top speed?

You will find that while the 0-100kmh acceleration figures for electric cars are generally above average, their top speeds are considerably more modest. Take, for example, the BMW i3. which will sprint from rest to 100kmh in just 7.3 seconds, but tops out at 150kmh. The maximum speed limit in Singapore is 90kmh. A similarly sized petrol car might take one or two seconds more to complete the drag, but will peak at 180kmh or more.

This is because most manufacturers of electric cars limit the top speed to preserve battery charge. Aerodynamic drag increases significantly as speed rises and hence battery power is consumed more rapidly when a high cruising speed is

maintained. The other reason has to do with an electric car's drivetrain. Since maximum torque from a typical motor is available the moment it starts to spin, there is no need for multiple gearing.

This is why most EVs are designed with just one fixed ratio for the purpose of reducing the electric motor speed, which is usually between 8,000 and 10,000rpm, before it is transmitted to the wheels.

The gearbox ratio is sized to provide, first and foremost, sufficient torque at the wheels for brisk urban driving. If a high top speed is an objective, like for Porsche's upcoming Taycan, a two-speed gearbox would need to be part of the design. A second gear will allow such a car to reach or

Being low-slung helps too. Shreejit Changaroth

exceed 250kmh.

# Toyota's Supra is back Toyota's long anticipated Supra

sports coupe (right) returns after two decades and is expected to be in Borneo Motors' showroom in the third quarter. The car, which shares underpinnings and drivetrains with BMW's new Z4 roadster, is likely to be priced around \$250,000. Engines include inlinefour turbos and an inline-six turbo, all mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission. And going by Z4 specs, the Supra could hit the century mark in as little as five seconds (or less).





# **Electric Nissan GT-R?**

Will Nissan ever make an electric LEXUS GT-R? The answer is a resounding MCLAREN, NISSAN, "yes", if the new IMs concept TOYOTA MOTOR, (above) is anything to go by. The VOLKSWAGEN sports saloon's electric powertrain consists of dual electric motors (front and rear) generating 483hp and 800Nm of torque. Its 115kWh battery provides the all-wheeldrive an estimated range of over 600km. If this goes into production, and if it should spawn a coupe variant, car lovers will in effect have an electric GT-R.

PHOTOS: BMW,



Volkswagen Amarok heads for the Arctic

A one-off Volkswagen Amarok (above) designed exclu-

sively for life in the Arctic Circle has been unveiled.

With a raised ride height, huge all-terrain tyres and a

cappuccino machine, the pick-up truck, modified by

off-road specialists Arctic Trucks, is currently being

put to work in Iceland as a support vehicle for winter

driving experiences, leading customers out onto the snow and ice. Under the bonnet is the usual Amarok

3-litre V6 turbodiesel with 224hp, allowing the truck to

overcome 45-degree slopes and pull a payload of

1,154kg.

# Spider gets top-exit exhausts

McLaren's new 600LT Spider (below) features topexit exhausts seen in the 600LT Coupe. At 1,297kg (dry weight), it is some 80kg lighter than its competition and just 50kg heftier than the Coupe. McLaren says no additional body strengthening has been incorporated. With 600hp and 620Nm from a 3.8-litre twin-turbocharged V8, the topless track-ready car has a century sprint time of 2.9 seconds (identical to the Coupe's). It hits 200kmh in 8.4 seconds or just 0.2 seconds slower than the hardtop.



# BMW revamps 7-series

BMW's facelifted 7-series flagship (above) has grown : 2013 to 2014 Hyundai Santa Fe cars. 22mm longer and sports a massive grille. It has a new engine line-up comprising petrol and diesel units in : Highway Traffic Safety Administrasix-, eight- and 12-cylinder formats. A petrol-electric : tion opened a formal investigation hybrid offers an electric-only range of up to 57km. At the top is a 6.6-litre 585hp V12 with a peak torque of Lexus' award-winning LC will soon have an open-top : 850Nm. While its top speed is restricted to 248kmh, : gine defects. variant. Lexus says the LC Convertible concept (left) is this superlative limo hits 100kmh in merely 3.8 sec-

# Safety recalls for Hyundai, Kia

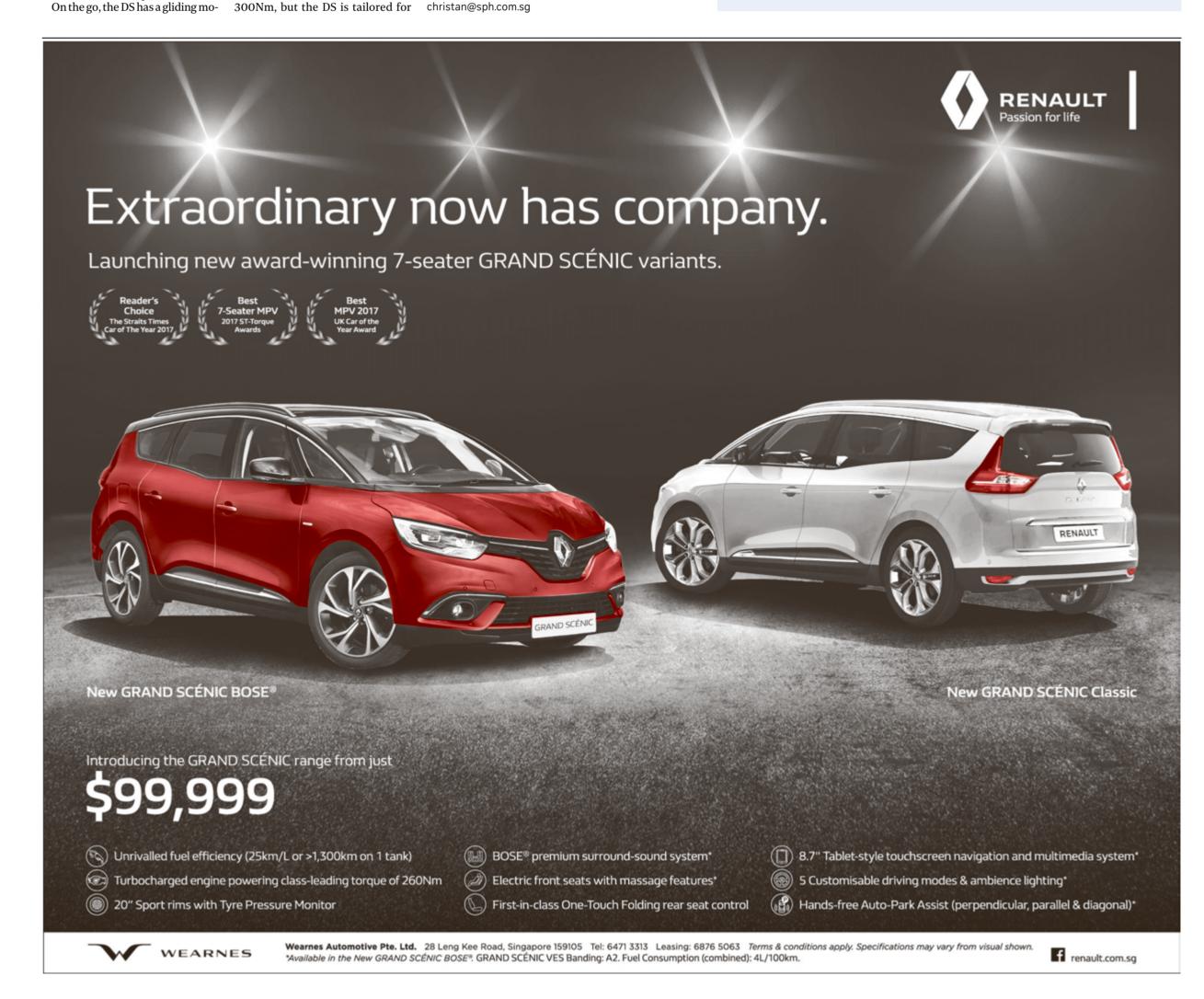
have issued fresh safety recalls in the United States. According to Reuters, 168,000 vehicles are being recalled for fire risks related to fuel leaks. Both will also make software upgrades on 3.7 million vehicles. A high-pressure fuel pipe may have been damaged or improperly installed as part of an engine replacement during the prior recall and that installation could increase the risk of fire, the companies said. The Korean carmakers said the software update aims to protect the vehicles from internal damage and they will also offer extended warranties for engine issues. The new recall covers Kia Op-

Hyundai and sister company Kia

tima, Sorento and Sportage cars (model years 2011 to 2014); and 2011 to 2014 Hyundai Sonata and In May 2017, the US National into the recalls of nearly 1.7 million Hyundai and Kia vehicles over en-

According to the Land Transport Authority, no such recalls affecting the two brands have been made in the last six months.

Christopher Tan





# Lexus LC goes topless





# Billionaires splurge on Bugatti

# Wearnes Automotive has sold 18 Bugattis in the region since 2016

# **Christopher Tan**

**Senior Correspondent** 

If more proof is ever needed of crazy rich Asians' growing numbers, look no further than Bugatti sales.

Since the brand's debut here in 2016, multi-brand motor group Wearnes Automotive, which holds the Bugatti franchise for the region, has sold 18 Bugattis, reputed to be among the world's fastest and costliest range of cars.

Five were sold in 2016, followed by another five in 2017. But last year's figure ballooned by 60 per cent to eight.

Of the lot, 14 were Chirons, each costing €2.4 million (S\$3.7 million) to €2.5 million; and four were the latest Divo model, each starting from  $\in$ 5 million – all before taxes.

And of the Chirons, two were sold in Singapore. As Bugattis are all left-hand-drive, neither was registered here. One owner has shipped his car to the United States, while the other will keep his car in a climate-controlled showcase facility at Wearnes.



In response to queries from The Straits Times, Wearnes' prestige dihe says. vision managing director Victor Kwan reveals that its sales performance has placed the company in the running for the world's No. 1 Bugatti dealer title.

"We are very honoured that our Bugatti customers have shown such appreciation for the rich heritage and exclusivity of the brand,

and have placed their trust in us,"

Wearnes, which holds the rarefied franchise for South-east Asia, Hong Kong, China and Macau, says Bugatti buyers are mostly men in their 40s and 50s, and "billionaires from across industries".

Bugatti is a French marque owned by Volkswagen Group. It makes only around 50 cars a year.

Cars are highly customised according to a buyer's whim and fancy. Each Chiron, for instance, takes

about nine months to build.

**Bugatti Chiron** 

left) costs

€2.5 million.

AUTOMOTIVE

Annual sales hover between 30 and 80 units.

Bugatti cars are outrageously powerful. The Chiron has an 8-litre 16-cylinder engine fed by four turbochargers, generating 1,500hp and 1,600Nm of torque to propel

the car to 100kmh in 2.5 seconds.

The Divo has the same powertrain, but pips the Chiron in the century sprint by 0.1 second. Both have a peak velocity well exceeding 400kmh.

Separately, Mr Kwan reveals that "2019 will be a very exciting year"

The group, which also represents Alpine, Aston Martin, Bentley, Jaguar, Land Rover, Volvo, Infiniti, Renault and Ducati here, will add Koenigsegg and Pininfarina to its hypercar stable later this year.

Swedish sports car manufacturer Koenigsegg is currently represented by Motorway Group in Singa-

Wearnes says it has clinched the franchise for Malaysia, but adds that the brand does not impose territorial exclusivity, so it can sell cars to buyers from any market.

But Pininfarina will probably be its most exciting venture.

The revered Italian design house will unveil an electric hypercar this

The Battista is expected to hit 100kmh in less than two seconds, achieve a top speed in excess of 350kmh and offer a range of more than 500km.

christan@sph.com.sg





To tap on the growing "crazy rich Asian" market, Wearnes Automotive will add Koenigsegg (left) and Pininfarina (above) to its hypercar stable later this year.

# 



LINDA SEAH LEI SIE **FOUND GUILTY OF** MAID ABUSE **B4** 

# Ban on sale of set-top boxes may not stop users

It's business as usual at shops before the new laws against piracy come into force

## **Hariz Baharudin**

For the past year, Mr Samuel, 33, has been using a streaming set-top box to watch pirated content – movies and television shows – and live football matches from all over the world.

The price for the programmes: A one-off payment of \$99, which he said is "unbelievable".

Alternatively, he would have to subscribe to Netflix, which could cost at least \$11 monthly, to watch the content – some of which might not be available on the set-top box.

Mr Samuel, a sports coach who declined to give his full name, said: "It's not illegal to use it now, and it is so convenient, why should I stop? Plus, the box updates regularly so I have the latest things to watch."

But soon, it will be harder to get hold of such streaming boxes.

The Ministry of Law (MinLaw) said on Thursday that new legislation will be tabled in Parliament this year to ban the sale of streaming boxes with "add-on" services that help consumers access pirated

"We are of the view that legislative amendments are needed to both clarify our policy position and the actions that can be taken against retailers of such set-top boxes," MinLaw said in the 70-page report, which makes 16 proposed changes to the Copyright Act.

The law is currently unclear about the set-top boxes that provide access to pirated content.

Copyright holders have had little legal recourse to act against retailers of these boxes. Should the new laws pass, selling these streaming boxes will be made illegal.

For now, it is business as usual at



These laws will send a strong signal that we respect intellectual property and copyright. These are people's hard work, and they should be respected.

STRONG MESSAGE

Sim Lim Square, where such boxes

When The Straits Times visited

yesterday, more than 10 shops were

seen selling them, and most of these

shops had posters advertising these

set-top boxes with prices ranging

Staff working at these shops said

their devices are still legal because

there are currently no laws banning

their sale, and that the apps that the

These boxes have become popu-

lar since they appeared on the mar-

ket more than five years ago. Staff

at several shops said they could sell

MPs told ST that the laws would

send a strong message that piracy

more than a 100 devices a month.

cannot be accepted here.

devices come with are not illegal.

from under \$100 to about \$230.

are commonly sold.

MS TIN PEILING, Member of Parliament and deputy chair of the Communications and Information Government Parliamentary Committees

"These laws will send a strong signal that we respect intellectual property and copyright. These are people's hard work, and they should be respected," said MP Tin Pei Ling, deputy chair of the Government Parliamentary Committee (GPC) for Communications and Information.

Mr Darryl David, a member of the same GPC, said it was important to also educate consumers that the ability of media professionals to earn a living depends on them being paid for their intellectual property.

"So when piracy takes that away, it should not be allowed. If we believe piracy is a crime, then it should not be encouraged," he added.

On why the proposed legal changes target only sellers and not buyers of the streaming boxes, tech-

nology lawyer Bryan Tan of Pinsent Masons MPillay said this could be seen as a move to stop the supply of the devices and apps that facilitate copyright infringement.

Streaming

set-top boxes, which help consumers access pirated content are openly promoted and sold at shops at Sim Lim Square. New laws to be

tabled this year will ban the sale

of such boxes. ST PHOTO:

JASMINE CHOONG

But some users believe they can continue using the set-top boxes.

"They can stop the sales, but there are so many people who have them already. They literally have to knock on people's doors to stop them," said Mr Samuel.

Said an engineer, 27, who declined to be named: "Even if the retailers stop selling the boxes, what's to stop people from downloading the apps and using them on other devices? The Internet will find a way for us to keep on using them."

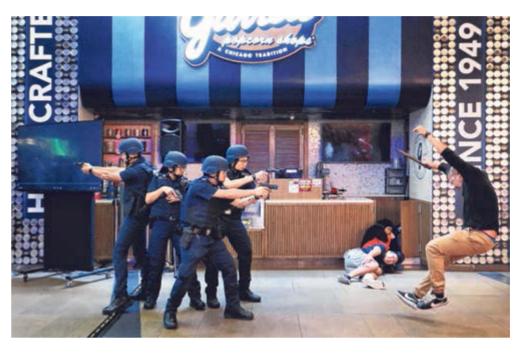
harizbah@sph.com.sg





Harvey Norman is the trading name of Pertama Merchandising Pte Ltd.





"attacker" (centre) trying to "stab" someone during Exercise Heartbeat at 313@Somerset yesterday; members of the Singapore Police Force's Ground Response Force responding to the attack; and Singapore Civil **Defence Force** officers attending to "victims". The counterterrorism exercise, which started in 2009, has been held islandwide in various public locations. ST PHOTOS: **GAVIN FOO** 

From above: An



# Terrorism a threat to multiracial harmony, says MP

# Joan Pereira calls for Singaporeans to stay united, support Malay-Muslim community

Shabana Begum

Terrorism presents a threat not only to human lives and physical infrastructure, but also to Singapore's multiracial and multi-religious harmony, said Tanjong Pagar GRC MP Joan Pereira yesterday.

Referring to Wednesday's news that a former religious teacher Murad Mohd Said and his student Razali Abas were issued Restriction Orders (ROs) under the Inter-

NEED TO STAY UNITED

With all of us now on social media, you see individuals being radicalised and they influence others and they destroy themselves, destroy their family members, destroy their community and destroy the multiracial and multi-religious harmony that we Singaporeans have so painstakingly built.

**7**5

TANJONG PAGAR GRC MP JOAN PEREIRA

nal Security Act, she urged Singaporeans to strengthen the ties among local groups and support the Malay-Muslim community.

"The terror threat is a real and present danger in Singapore. And with all of us now on social media, you see individuals being radicalised and they influence others and they destroy themselves, destroy their family members, destroy their community and destroy the multiracial and multi-religious harmony that we Singaporeans have so painstakingly built," said Ms Pereira, who is also the deputy chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Defence and Foreign Affairs.

"They want to destroy this. So it is very important that Singapore and Singaporeans stay united, stay strong and not let such elements tearns apart."

tear us apart."

Murad, 46, was placed on an RO on Dec 5 last year for promoting radical beliefs and views detrimental to the country's cohesion. His student, 56-year-old technician Razali, who was found to hold radical views concerning the use of armed violence against the perceived enemies of Islam, was

placed on an RO in October. Ms Pereira added: "It is important for us to know that they do not repre-

sent the Malay-Muslim community. "What is important for each and every one of us, now, today and moving forward, is to stand together with our Malay-Muslim community, brothers and sisters, stand together with them to continue to deepen and strengthen the ties that we have. Build on it, strengthen it, stand together and condemn those terror attacks that will harm our social fabric."

She was speaking at a counterterrorism exercise yesterday at 313@Somerset involving officers from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Singapore Civil Defence Force and some of the mall's management team and tenants.

Exercise Heartbeat, which started in 2009, has been carried out islandwide in public locations such as Jurong Point, the National Library and Sentosa.

In the run-up to the session, 313@Somerset's management and tenants were trained on the SGSecure "run, hide, tell" procedure and learnt improvised first-aid skills.

Ms Cheryl Goh, the mall's general manager, said the exercise was an opportunity to "put our emergency procedures into practice" and "enables the mall and retailers to stay vigilant and prepared".

nshab@sph.com.sg

SEE FORUM B9



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Linda Seah Lei Sie (left) was convicted of five assault charges and one count of causing the maid to drink tainted water, while Seah's husband Lim Toon Leng was found guilty of one count of assault. The couple carried out the offences at their Punggol flat between August and October 2016. ST PHOTO: WONG KWAI CHOW

# Couple who abused maid for months found guilty

# Myanmar national was made to scald herself, drink tainted water, and had salary withheld

# **Shaffiq Alkhatib**

Tormented for months, a maid was forced to perform multiple acts of self-harm, including pouring scalding hot water on herself and drinking dirty water mixed with detergent.

Ms Phyu Phyu Mar's monthly salary, which she did not receive throughout her employment with her abusers. Her weight plummeted from 50kg to 38kg because of a lack of food.

Ms Phyu Phyu Mar also did not receive her monthly salary of \$700 throughout her employment with her abusers, and her weight plummeted from 50kg to 38kg because of a lack of food.

Yesterday, District Judge Olivia Low found Linda Seah Lei Sie, 39, and her husband, Lim Toon Leng, 44, guilty of abusing the Myanmar national following a 15-day trial.

Seah, who manages Anew Me Beauty Aesthetic salon at The Centrepoint shopping mall in Orchard Road, was convicted of five assault charges and one count of causing the maid to drink tainted water.

The judge found her interior designer husband guilty of one count of assault.

The Singaporean couple, who have a five-year-old daughter, committed the offences at their Punggol Walk flat between August

and October 2016.

Deputy Public Prosecutors Sarah Shi and Jotham Tay said in their submissions that Seah employed Ms Phyu Phyu Mar from February to October that year.

The prosecutors added that the maid received her full salary only in November that year when the Ministry of Manpower intervened.

Ms Phyu Phyu Mar testified during the trial that Seah made her pour hot water on herself on two occasions – in August and Septem-

Yesterday, Judge Low said that according to the prosecution, Seah was unhappy with the maid and boiled some water in a kettle before asking her to pour some of it on her own left shoulder. The maid complied.

The second incident took place after Seah became angry because she felt that the maid was slow in completing her chores.

The maid suffered scald marks and blisters on her skin when she complied with Seah's orders.

Instead of taking her to a doctor, Seah gave her a needle and told her

to puncture the blisters herself. Besides these incidents, Seah or-

dered the maid to drink tainted water, made her hit her head against the floor, grabbed her hair and used a cellphone to repeatedly hit her. On Oct 13, 2016, Lim punched Ms

Phyu Phyu Mar's forehead twice after he wrongly assumed that she had thrown away his spectacles.

The court heard that the maid used to accompany Seah to her salon a few times a week and one of its workers, who had noticed her injuries, alerted the police the next day.

The police went to the couple's flat on Oct 15, 2016, and Ms Phyu Phyu Mar was taken to Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, where she was warded for six days.

The couple are expected to be sentenced on Feb 11.

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# Man charged with murder of woman in Woodlands flat

A 34-year-old man appeared in court yesterday after a woman was found dead in a Woodlands flat the day before.

M. Krishnan is accused of murdering Ms Mallika Begum Rahamansa Abdul Rahman, 40, between 10pm on Wednesday and 1.37am on Thursday.

He allegedly committed the offence in a unit on the 11th storey of Block 693D, Woodlands Avenue 6. Court documents did not state

the nature of their relationship. The police received a call for as-

sistance on Thursday morning and found Ms Mallika lying motionless inside the rental unit. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officers then arrested Krishnan. Residents told The Straits Times that Ms Mallika, who is believed to

have been a school teacher, had been arguing frequently with a man in the three to four days before the incident.

A resident who lives on the eighth storey said: "Both were shouting at each other and the fights lasted for about an hour each time. I was home... and I heard loud noises.'

It is unclear whether the man was Krishnan.

Mr Daniel Hussain, whose unit is almost directly above the crime scene, told The Straits Times that at around 8.30pm on Wednesday, he heard what sounded like a scuffle on the 11th storey.

"I heard (the sound of) things smashing on the ground, it was

very noisy," he said. "From 10pm, all was quiet. Then it started again at about 12.50am. There was a very loud shout below that sounded like a lady's voice and there was a man shouting vul-

According to Chinese daily Lianhe Wanbao, Ms Mallika was found to have bruises on her hands, feet, face and eyes.

A 72-year-old resident, who lives down the corridor from the dead woman and declined to be named, said: "The few times I've seen her, she was alone. She seemed very gentle.'

Krishnan is now remanded at the Central Police Division and will be back in court next Friday.

If convicted of murder, he will face the death penalty.

Shaffig Alkhatib

# High Court has power to revoke patents: Apex court



LTA says the new 10kmh speed limit for PMD users and cyclists will give all footpath users more time to react to unforeseen circumstances. ST PHOTO: KUA CHEE SIONG

# Lower speed limit for PMDs from Feb 1

### Toh Ting Wei

Cyclists and users of personal mobility devices (PMDs) will no longer be able to ride at speeds above 10kmh on footpaths from Feb 1, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) said yesterday.

In addition, cyclists and PMD users will have to stop and look out for vehicles at road crossings. All cyclists will have to wear helmets when riding on roads.

Meanwhile, personal mobility aids, such as motorised wheelchairs and mobility scooters, will also be required to have a maxi-

mum device speed of 10kmh.

LTA said in a statement: "These

rules... are part of ongoing efforts to foster greater rider responsibility and encourage safe sharing of our paths and roads."

Both cyclists and users of PMDs questioned the practicality of getting them to travel at what was essentially just a fast running pace.

Under previous rules, cyclists and PMD users could ride on footpaths at a speed of up to 15kmh.

But LTA said lowering the speed limit to 10kmh will allow all path users to have more time to react to unforeseen circumstances.

Anyone caught flouting the rule can be fined up to \$1,000 and/or jailed for up to three months upon conviction for the first offence.

The same penalty applies to

cyclists who do not wear helmets on roads and people who do not practise the "stop and look" rule.

LTA said the maximum device speed of 10kmh for motorised personal mobility aids will safeguard the use of such devices for only those who genuinely need them.

Anyone convicted of using a noncompliant version of such devices on public paths can be fined up to \$5,000 and/or jailed up to three months for the first offence.

Retailers who display or advertise non-compliant personal mobility aids can be fined up to \$1,000 and/or jailed for up to three months for the first offence.

Harvey Norman

Harvey Norman is the trading name of Pertama Merchandising Pte Ltd.

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# It has jurisdiction in one of two distinct categories of cases, rules Court of Appeal

K.C. Vijayan

Senior Law Correspondent

The Court of Appeal has reversed a High Court decision and ruled that the latter does have the jurisdiction to hear an application to revoke a patent – a ruling that will have consequences for future patent cases.

In a case involving two Singapore-based solar power companies, the Court of Appeal held there are two categories of patent revocation cases – one of which can be heard in the High Court.

In such cases, the defendant in patent infringement proceedings must challenge the validity of a patent and seek a revocation order, giving the High Court the jurisdiction to determine the validity of the patent based on the relevant sections of the Patents Act (PA).

"Upon a finding of invalidity, the High Court has the power to order that the patent be revoked," ruled the appeal court.

However, it said the second category of cases – which is "quite different" – involves applications for revocation brought independently of infringement proceedings. "In other words, the applicant is the 'attacker' who has chosen to challenge the validity of the patent on its own accord," the appeal court explained.

In such standalone applications, "the High Court does not have original jurisdiction to hear applications for revocation because its jurisdiction to do so has been excluded by section 82(2) read with section 82(1)

of the PA".

For such second-category standalones, the application is to be heard by the Registrar of Patents and the High Court's role is limited to hearing appeals from the Registrar's decisions.

In the case in question, Sun Electric (SE) sued Sunseap Group, a holding company for a licensed electricity retailer and developer of rooftop photovoltaic systems, claiming Sunseap had infringed its patent for a power grid system and a method of determining power consumption.

Sunseap denied the allegations and, made a counterclaim to have SE's patent revoked.

SE then sought to strike out Sunseap's bid to revoke the patent, but failed before a High Court assistant registrar. It then succeeded on appeal to the High Court in 2017.

Last year, Sunseap appealed against this decision to the apex court through its lawyers from Rajah & Tann.

The court allowed the appeal and in delivering judgment last week, Judge of Appeal Tay Yong Kwang said: "We are not able to agree with the conclusion that the High Court lacks original jurisdiction in all cases to hear applications for revocation of a patent."

The court, which also included Judges of Appeal Andrew Phang, Judith Prakash and Steven Chong, and Justice Belinda Ang, said: "In our view, there are two distinct categories of cases which must be dealt with separately."

In a client update issued on the case, Rajah & Tann lawyers led by Mr Lau Kok Keng, said: "The (2017) High Court decision had implications on previous court decisions involving patent revocation, since a lack of jurisdiction would mean that those proceedings were a nullity."

The court found the present case fell within the first category, allowed the appeal and directed that the defence papers be amended to accord with the legal principles it set out.

SE was ordered to pay \$36,000 in costs and disbursements for its appeal and further costs for the 2017 High Court hearing since the finding was reversed.

The case is expected to be heard later this year.



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# BTS fans start queuing one day before concert

### **Desiree Loh**

Need more proof that K-pop boyband BTS is a global phenomenon? Its hotly anticipated sold-out concert at the National Stadium takes place today at 7pm, but there were already about 80 fans outside the OCBC Arena yesterday at 6.30pm, some with luggage in tow.

The line was orderly, with some breaking out into screams when strains of BTS songs were heard coming from the stadium.

Fans told The Straits Times they were queuing overnight to be the first ones to get their hands on BTS merchandise when the merchandise booth opens at 9am today.

First in line was 15-year-old Haney Oistina, whose friend had snagged a place at the front of the queue at 8am. Since her friend's parents did not allow her to queue overnight, the secondary school student arrived at 3pm to take over the spot.

"There are limited items available and scalpers usually take advantage of fans and resell them at really high prices. I'm just a student and I don't have so much money, so I'm willing to queue overnight to buy merchandise," said Haney. She is planning to spend \$100 to buy items such as a \$53 T-shirt.

BTS - short for Bangtan Sonyeondan, or Bulletproof Boy Scouts made its debut in 2013 and has gone on to conquer the world. According to a research institute, it is worth about 4.1 trillion won (S\$5 billion) a year to the South Korean economy.

Last year, Time magazine named it among the 25 most influential people on the Internet. The band has at least 50 million followers across English-language social media platforms. The social media-savvy seven-member group (@BTS\_twt) is the most tweetedabout user globally in 2017 and last

Malaysian Lina Nazihah, 25, who did not have a concert ticket, travelled to Singapore just to buy merchandise for around 20 Malaysians who could not make it here.

"The merchandise is cheaper here than online and the items also get sold out in seconds online. It's better for me to come to a nearby country to buy instead," she said. The products range from \$8 for a shopping bag to \$55 for the official light stick.



The queue yesterday at the National Stadium, where K-pop boyband BTS is holding its concert, scheduled to take place at 7pm today. Some fans do not even have a concert ticket, but are in the queue to buy merchandise. The first person in line started queuing at 8am yesterday. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR

The undergraduate came prepared with a medium-sized suitcase to transport the precious cargo, a mat and some snacks to tide her through the night.

around 80 fans lined up for a chance to take photos with a photo board of BTS. They included Indonesians Renadya, 23, and Deva

Meanwhile, another group of Han, 27, who had bought standing pen tickets priced at \$278 each. They had touched down at 4pm and made a beeline for the National Stadium. On the long wait, Ms Han, desloh@sph.com.sg

who works in e-commerce, said: "It's okay because we love them so much."



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# Owners sue Oxley unit in collective sale dispute

# They argue it isn't entitled to rescind deal for Ampas Apartment, claim error by both sides

Selina Lum

Law Correspondent

Forty home owners of the 43-unit freehold Ampas Apartment, which was sold last year in a \$95 million collective sale, have sued the buyer for wanting to pull out of the deal.

Oxley Jasper, a subsidiary of public-listed Oxley Holdings, said it was entitled to call off the deal after its proposal for a new residential development was rejected by the planning authorities.

Under the sale and purchase agreement, the deal was subject to outline planning permission for a new development comprising at least 120 units, each averaging 700 sqft.

But the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) said the maximum allowable number of dwelling units for the site is 112, adding that the formula for computing the permissible number of units can be found in guidelines issued in 2012.

The 40 owners, who are suing for damages, argued in a High Court suit filed earlier this month that the buyer was not entitled to rescind the agreement. The suit, filed in the name of five owners representing 35 others, says the alleged rescission should be declared null and void.

The home owners, represented by Mr Lee Ee Yang of Covenant Chambers, contend that there was a mistake by both parties in the drafting of the condition, but it could be rectified.

They say the parties would not have concluded the agreement knowing there was a condition that could not be met based on existing

The deal was inked on March 27 and the buyer paid a first deposit of \$4.75 million, or 5 per cent of the purchase price. Under the contract, the buyer was to pay a further deposit of \$4.75 million within seven business days after receipt of written notice that the order for sale for the property had been obtained.

laws, regulations and guidelines.

The plaintiffs contend that the contract should be amended to state 112 units instead of 120.

Oxley has applied to strike out the lawsuit, arguing that the 40 plaintiffs do not have the legal standing to sue.

All 43 owners need to be on board, contends the buyer, represented by Mr Paul Tan of Rajah & Tann. It also argues that the plaintiffs' claim that the number 120 can be rectified to 112 was without basis.

According to court papers filed by the plaintiffs, the terms and conditions of the sale were discussed during a seven-hour meeting in March last year. The plaintiffs contend that at the meeting, the collective-sale committee members were assured by the marketing agent for the sale that the condition on planning permission could be met.

Under the agreement, if the buver fails to receive planning permission, it is entitled to rescind and cancel the contract.

The buyer has the right to waive this condition and proceed with the deal, but the owners do not have a corresponding right.

The deal was inked on March 27 and the buyer paid a first deposit of \$4.75 million, or 5 per cent of the purchase price. Under the contract, the buyer was to pay a further deposit of \$4.75 million within seven business days after receipt of written notice that the order for sale for the property had been obtained.

The deadline was extended to Dec 1 after Oxley's request.

On Sept 17, the URA rejected Oxley's proposal. On Oct 26, Oxley's lawyers wrote to the committee's lawyers, saying it was entitled to rescind and cancel the agreement.

It demanded the return of the first deposit. More legal correspondence followed, with the committee rejecting the purported rescission. The committee also demanded payment of the further deposit by the deadline.

Oxley rejected the demand and maintained that the contract had been validly rescinded and cancelled. It repeated its demand for the first deposit to be refunded.

The plaintiffs allege that Oxley's failure to pay the further deposit by Dec 1 was a breach of contract and thus they were entitled to forfeit the first deposit.

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# Apex court hears Li Shengwu's appeal in contempt of court case



Mr Li Shengwu, PM Lee Hsien Loong's nephew, is facing contempt of court action by the AGC over a July 2017 online post he made.

# His lawyer and AGC debate court order allowing papers to be served on him in the US

Linette Lai

**Political Correspondent** 

Lawyers for Mr Li Shengwu yesterday presented to the Court of Appeal their arguments for quashing a court order that allowed the Attorney-General to serve papers on Mr Li in the United States for contempt of court.

Their arguments involved two points which the apex court told them and the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) to address.

The first is whether there was any statutory basis for the courts to exercise substantive jurisdiction over someone who was overseas at the time contempt proceedings started.

If the answer is yes, the second point is whether a new rule specifically allowing court papers for contempt to be served outside of Singapore can be applied retroactively, or if any other rules could apply to confer jurisdiction.

The AGC had served contempt papers on Mr Li based on existing laws, and is arguing that it is justified.

The rule allowing court papers to be served for contempt outside Singapore took effect in October 2017, a few months after the AGC started proceedings for contempt against Mr Li, who is Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's nephew.

Mr Li subsequently applied to set aside the High Court order, which was dismissed by a High Court judge who also rejected his request

for leave to appeal.

He then sought leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal, and received the green light to do so last Septem-

Arguments on the case were heard yesterday by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and Judges of Appeal Tay Yong Kwang and Steven Chong in a packed courtroom.

Acting for Mr Li, lawyer Abraham Vergis from Providence Law said the portions of the law that the AGC was relying on did not provide a basis for the court to exercise substantive jurisdiction over someone who was overseas when proceedings started.

During the hearing, the judges took issue with AGC's Senior Counsel Francis Ng's decision to use a different portion of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act as the jurisdictional basis for his argument than previously.

This "essentially abandoned the position that the AG had taken up to that point", Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon said.

Responding to the Chief Justice, Mr Ng said: "I can only apologise and say that I wrongly assumed that the breadth of the question permitted parties the latitude we eventually took."

He made the case that the AGC's position on the jurisdictional basis "has not changed and will not change", and urged the Court of Appeal to dismiss Mr Li's appeal with costs.

During the hearing, Mr Vergis

was also asked if Mr Li was in Singapore when he made the post in July 2017.

In the post, Mr Li said the Singapore Government is "very litigious and has a pliant court system".

It was made in relation to an ongoing family feud between PM Lee and his siblings over the fate of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's house at 38 Oxley Road.

The AGC has made the case that Mr Li was in Singapore when he committed the offence, to support its application to serve court papers on him overseas.

Mr Vergis did not address the question. When pressed, he said: "Insofar as that appears to me the only evidence before the court, and there doesn't seem to be any contrary evidence, one can say it is possible for the court to consider that argument."

The Court of Appeal has reserved judgment on the case.

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# by hiding the meat product in packets of durian-flavoured biscuits. PHOTO: IMMIGRATION AND CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY

ICA officers caught two Singaporeans

who tried to bring in bak kwa from Malaysia

# A whiff of deceit: Bak kwa smugglers nabbed at Woodlands

# Timothy Goh

Two travellers were caught trying to smuggle bak kwa into Singapore in packets of durian-flavoured biscuits at Woodlands checkpoint.

On Thursday, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said its officers detected two separate cases of Singaporeans attempting to sneak in the barbecued meat treat at the arrival bus hall of the checkpoint last Saturday.

Officers noticed packets of layered stacks resembling bak kwa in scanned images of bags carried by the two – a 39-year-old woman and a 29-year-old man.

a 29-year-old man.

The pair were found to have hidden the bak kwa in seven packets of durian-flavoured biscuits.

The cases were referred to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) for further investigation.

ity (AVA) for further investigation. Food products brought into Singapore must meet AVA's guidelines, and be from approved sources. In the case of meat products, such as bak kwa, each person is allowed to bring in a maximum of 5kg bought directly from approved sources.

Currently, only 21 countries are listed as approved sources on AVA's website, but Malaysia is not one of them. This means it is illegal to bring in bak kwa from Malaysia.

Anyone found guilty of importing meat products from unapproved sources can be fined up to \$50,000, jailed for up to two years, or both. Repeat offenders can be fined up to \$100,000, jailed for up to three years, or both.

A similar incident occurred around the Chinese New Year period in February last year, when two motorists attempted to smuggle bak kwa into Singapore through Woodlands checkpoint.

In last year's case, the bak kwa was hidden in pastry or cookie packaging.

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# Caregivers, service providers share views in MOH review

# Ministry putting together package to address concerns following focus group discussions, says Edwin Tong

### Vanessa Liu

Madam Siti Hamidah, 61, who has a background in psychology, is trained in social work and is a senior

But she found herself "really overwhelmed" and "lost" when she became the primary caregiver for her 89-year-old bedridden mother who suffered a stroke two years ago.

She said: "Up till then, my mother was a very strong woman, so being bedridden was hard for her. It was hard for me as well to see her like that. I guess what would have been helpful then would have been having someone there, a shoulder to cry on and to be able to know what to do

at that critical stage."

She hopes that there will be more channels for caregivers to spend time with one another to obtain support from one another, and that the process of finding out about the resources available to them would be made less challenging.

Madam Hamidah, other caregivers and caregiving service providers took part in a series of focus group discussions (FGD) between September and December last year. The discussions were held as part of a review by the Ministry of Health to strengthen support for caregiving for seniors.

A total of 19 FGDs have been conducted with over 200 caregivers, caregiving service providers and stakeholders.

Senior Minister of State for Health Edwin Tong, who was at a dialogue with caregiving service providers vesterday at Caregivers Alliance, said four recurrent themes came up during his discussions with various stakeholders.

They were: Making respite options more flexible for caregivers; increasing the number of assistance schemes for caregivers who opt for home care; helping new caregivers navigate the resources available to them; and providing working caregivers with flexibility in their work arrangements so that they can fulfil their caregiving responsibilities.

Mr Tong said that because caregiving was a 24/7 job, there was a need for respite options to be flexible, allowing caregivers, for instance, to request for respite care at short notice in case of emergencies.

Turning to the issue of financial as-

sistance schemes available for home care compared with institutional care, Mr Tong acknowledged that it

might not be a level playing field. He said there was a need to increase the options available for caregivers who opt for home care for their loved ones.

He said: "We want our seniors to age in place, to be in the community for as long as they can, to be cared for by people they know and who love them. So we want to see whether we can assist them financially as well, to defray some of the costs that they will invariably incur."

He said that the ministry was looking at all the themes that emerged from the discussions and was in the process of putting together a pack-

age to address concerns. Details would be announced in a "matter of weeks".

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### Four recurrent themes

Making respite options more flexible for caregivers

Increasing the number of assistance schemes for caregivers who opt for home care

> Helping new caregivers navigate the resources available to them

**Providing working** caregivers with flexibility in their work arrangements so that they can fulfil their caregiving

responsibilities

Works of Eddy Susanto at Art Stage Singapore 2017. This year's fair, the ninth edition, was supposed to run from Jan 25 to 27 at the Marina **Bay Sands Expo** and Convention Centre, but was cancelled nine days before it was due to start. ST FILE PHOTO

# Firms offer free space after Art Stage cancellation

# Toh Wen Li

Grocery shoppers might get to admire some new world-class art as they browse the shelves of food at Habitat by Honestbee next week.

The high-tech supermarket in Pasir Panjang is among the commercial entities that have stepped forward to help galleries affected by the sudden cancellation of Art Stage Singapore, the biggest contemporary art fair here.

"We will take into consideration the subject matter, context and size of the works to determine how we can collaborate with the artist and gallery," said managing director Pauline Png, adding that it is offering its space for free.

The fair's ninth edition was supposed to run from Jan 25 to 27 at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, but was cancelled nine days before its start.

Art Stage's founder Lorenzo Rudolf cited a "difficult market situation" and "unequal competition" from another fair at Gillman Barracks - referring to the new boutique fair S.E.A. Focus which runs from Jan 24 to 27 - as reasons for cancelling the event.

Since then, there has been a groundswell of support from the community, with galleries, artists and even home owners offering to host exhibitions.

Many posted their offers on a Facebook group called Art Stage SOS, started by online art magazine Plural Art Mag. Corporates have also come for-

ward - Far East Organization is offering space in its properties along the Orchard Road area, while Volvo is willing to convert a 120 sq m space - previously home to its art gallery Volvo Art Loft – at its showroom in Alexandra Road into gallery space.

Big Tiny, a start-up promoting the tiny house movement, has offered its 2,000 sq ft office space, which also has two 150 sq ft mobile homes. All three companies are offering

their spaces for free. Container storage space Le

Freeport in Changi North Crescent has 18 showrooms available, each 75 sq m to 82 sq m and equipped with hanging systems and lighting. It will charge \$80 a day for each one.

Fair participants were livid after receiving news of the cancellation, as many had shipped in artworks, booked hotel rooms and paid for plane tickets.

Gnani Arts had planned to stage a protest by destroying artworks at its gallery in Tanglin Shopping Centre vesterday, but cancelled it after advice from friends and collectors.

It will now hold an event called My Art Stage on Jan 26, where director P. Gnana will create a new painting "to look forward to new and brighter things that are to come".

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• People who would like to help can visit www.facebook.com/groups/ 467867243743976/

# S'pore ranked 10th most Instagrammable country in the world

Singapore has been ranked the 10th most Instagrammable country in the world.

The ranking, which was announced by online travel publication Big 7 Travel on Monday, was based on three factors. The online publication analysed the number of hashtags which used a country's name over the course of last year.

Each country received a score depending on the number of hashtags it had. This accounted for half of a country's overall score.

Big 7 Travel also conducted a survey with more than 8,400 respondents from 91 countries who were asked to vote for their most popular destinations. This accounted for 20 per cent of each country's total score.

The remaining 30 per cent of the final tally was based on the score a country was given by a panel of five judges.

The judges scored using the following criteria: abundance of Instagrammable spots; originality; natural Instagrammable spots; manmade Instagrammable spots; and Instagrammable food and drink spots.

Though Singapore was ahead of Britain and Japan, it lost out to destinations such as South Africa and Hong Kong. Australia claimed the top spot.

Travel media business owner

and food writer Niall Harbison, who chaired the judging panel, said Singapore scored highly for "its innovative city landscape and ingenious use of green spaces, as well as its highly Instagrammable food scene with creative cafes and dining options".

He added that the island's name was used in more than 60 million hashtags last year.

The judges said Singapore's focus on aesthetic spaces in highly populated areas was "unique" and "modern", citing buildings such as Marina Bay Sands, which the panel recognised as the most Instagrammed hotel in the world.

Seven locations were also picked as the most Instagrammable spots in Singapore: Cloud Forest at Gardens by the Bay; ArtScience Museum; Koon Seng Road; Bugis; Chijmes; Helix Bridge; and the Marina Bay Sands infinity pool.

The type of travellers who visited Singapore also tended to be engaged with social media, which helped to boost the country's presence on Instagram.

However, judges also said that the Republic lacks an abundance of natural attractions, which was responsible for pushing locations such as Canada (ranked No. 3) to the top spots.

Timothy Goh



The pedestrian was unconscious when taken to Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, where he died from his injuries, police said, PHOTO: STOMP

# Driver arrested after fatal road accident

A 51-year-old pedestrian died of his injuries in an accident with a car in Choa Chu Kang on Thursday morning.

The police said that the 53-yearold Singaporean driver has been arrested for causing death by a negligent act.

The accident occurred in Choa Chu Kang Way towards Sungei Kadut at about 7am.

The pedestrian was unconscious when taken to Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, where he died from his injuries, police said.

Yesterday, the man's oldest son told Chinese-language newspaper Shin Min Daily News at the morgue that his father was crossing the road to get to his vehicle.

His father worked as a heavy vehicle driver and was about to head to work, said the 26-year-old manager, who gave his name as Chen

He added that his father was the main breadwinner of the family and they are still trying to come to terms with his sudden death.

They had also planned a trip to Bangkok next month with several extended family members, he said.

"My dad was the third of five children. Our entire family of 20 had planned to holiday in Bangkok next month and had even bought the flight tickets, but now we have to cancel the trip."

Na Huiwen





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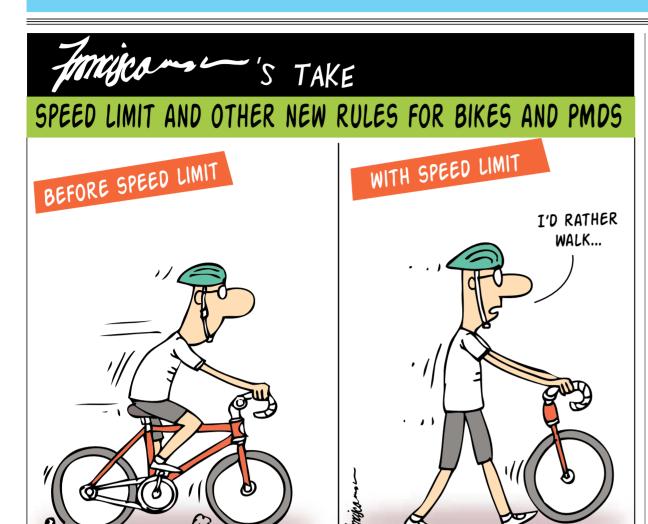
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# FORUM



# Secular state key for S'pore's social cohesion

I am glad that the authorities were able to act decisively against the former religious teacher and his student who held radical beliefs (Ex-religious teacher and student issued Restriction Orders; Jan 17).

I am also grateful to the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis), who, by striking the former teacher off the Asatizah Recognition Scheme and barring

him from conducting classes, was able to handle a sensitive issue without undermining the social cohesion we all enjoy today.

Religious harmony is one of the most crucial pillars of Singapore's peace and prosperity. Without it, social cohesion would degenerate and this could bring the Singapore society to its knees.

The authorities have stood their ground on Singapore being a secular state, and that is the way to go.

We must repel any teachings that will divide us, and treat every religion with equal respect to maintain social cohesion here. Julian Anschel Lai

# Don't let populism determine fate of IP

Mr Edwin Chaw's story of dropping : that distractions and lack of out of the Integrated Programme (IP) sparked a number of responses from Forum writers ('I flunked the IP', Dec 30, 2018; Don't judge job candidates by past failures, by Mr Dennis Chan Hoi Yim, Jan 4; Time right to focus on moral education, by Mr Seah Yam Meng, Jan 10).

The IP introduced a broader and more rigorous curriculum not limited to academic subjects.

Advanced learning comes with arduous challenges and is not always a joyful process, but overcoming obstacles builds tenacity.

The IP is not intended for everyone and students are aware

self-discipline are the common stumbling blocks to learning in the IP. Intense competition can bring out the ugly side of humanity, but the act of sabotaging is a moral issue.

Rather than pin the blame on the education system, shouldn't parents instead acknowledge their inadequacies in inculcating good

values in their children? The time required to get over

setbacks reflects an individual's grit. When decisions do not work out, should we call for more safety nets? Would this not counteract the idea of students taking failures in their : stride?

Meritocracy is about giving everyone an equal opportunity to excel, it is not about suppressing the better performers so as to achieve uniformity to justify equality.

The Independent Schools Scheme and IP were introduced with the common objective of preparing students who were ready for more.

These schools have stood the test of time, and the Ministry of Education should consult with long-serving educators from such schools before handing down directives in the face of populist

Doreen Leong (Ms)

# How should students and schools split prize money?

A group, which included my son, researched and submitted their Integrated Programme Year 3 science project to SembCorp Marine's Green Wave **Environmental Care Competition** 

2018, and was awarded the second prize of \$4,000. Sembcorp's guidelines

recommend that the prize money be split, with 40 per cent going to the school and 60 per cent going to the students.

And if the researched item were

to prove successful and be marketed, the students would have a stake in the profit-sharing. However, the school told the group that each member would

This is the first time the school has achieved this level of success in a competition like this and been

receive \$100.

awarded this much prize money. It should be pointed out that the students worked with private science labs on weekends and during the school holidays without the help or supervision of their school's teachers.

Does the Ministry of Education have any rules on such matters? For instance, what percentage of competition prize money should be awarded to students when they achieve success in such competitions?

Should the research make it to market, will the students join in the profit-sharing or will it all go to the school?

It is common practice among secondary schools and junior colleges to enter students in national and private competitions with prize money at stake, making these valid concerns.

Bea Lee (Ms)

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# Better utilise reporting sessions for youth offenders

Having been asked to be the bailor for two young people caught for drug consumption and subsequent petty theft, I have been accompanying them to the police station to make monthly reports while their cases are being investigated.

I have observed that nothing happens during these reporting sessions. The authorities require the signatures of the offender and the bailor to keep an official record of the session, but nine out of 10 times, no questions are asked. These youth know the drill by

now, and I even know of several other young people who repeatedly commit similar offences with a total disregard for the law.

It worries me that these monthly reporting sessions seem to serve no purpose, as they do not even warn young offenders against re-offending.

These regular reporting sessions could serve a greater purpose if youth are reminded not to re-offend.

One suggestion is to have a counsellor sit in with the police officer during each reporting session and spend 20 to 30 minutes speaking with the offender to find out more about their recent  $activities, while \, reminding \, them \, of \,$ the consequences of re-offending. I understand that it is not the

responsibility of the Singapore Police Force to reform delinquent vouth but by working together with the social service sector, it can keep these reporting sessions from going to waste.

We should do what we can to steer these youth in the right direction, and keep them from destroying their own bright futures.

Aisling Ong (Miss)

# Why wasn't cyber security strategy to cut Internet rolled out?

While the Committee of Inquiry's (COI) report into the SingHealth data breach gives several reasons for Internet surfing separation (ISS) not being implemented, it says next to nothing on why such an important defence strategy, which the Government announced several years ago was not rolled out, even in phases (IHiS, SingHealth fined \$1m; new cyber security steps taken; Jan 16).

The COI's report stated that prior to July 20 last year, malicious activities were still present in SingHealth's IT system, even after the implementation of preventive measures.

But after ISS was implemented on July 20, malicious activities visibly disappeared.

According to the COI's report, the Ministry of Health's (MOH) chief data adviser, Associate Professor

James Yip, said that implementing ISS was not straightforward and would require the tackling of many challenges. There would also be productivity issues to deal with, such as constraints in research, education and innovation.

But after sufficient consultation with industry practitioners, employees and stakeholders, wouldn't a Goldilocks approach : have been appropriate instead

of waiting?

Most importantly, would implementing ISS affect or

endanger patients' lives? If not, then operational efficiency such as waiting times and queue management could have been calibrated with phased or test-bed deployment.

Why did the Health Ministry not take this approach?

Tan Kar Quan

# Helping youth, families out of poverty cycle

We agree with the points raised by Ms Lam Yin Yin in her Forum letter (Offer help to prevent youth from remaining in poverty cycle; Jan 5).

Doing this requires coordinated efforts across government agencies, and close partnership with the community.

The Education Ministry, for instance, set up Uplift, short for Uplifting Pupils in Life and Inspiring Families Taskforce. Among other issues, it looks at tackling long-term absenteeism, and stepping up parent engagement.

The National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism, co-led by the ministries of Social and Family Development (MSF) and Home Affairs (MHA), is

another example. It works on preventing offending and re-offending, and strengthening rehabilitation of youth offenders.

For a start, nine voluntary welfare organisations have been appointed as Integrated Service Providers to run programmes for at-risk children and youth, and youth offenders.

MSF partners youth agencies to run Youth GO!, which uses informal and flexible programmes to reach out at local community congregation areas.

We invest heavily in early childhood education to try and give every child a good start in life. Initiatives such as the KidStart give children from low-income families early access to health, learning and developmental support.

MSF's network of 24 social service offices (SSOs) provides accessible and coordinated social assistance to families in need. In addition to ComCare assistance, SSOs link these households with other agencies so that they receive support for other needs, such as family services, social work intervention, housing and employment assistance.

For families that need more urgent help, community partners, including the family service centres (FSCs) and grassroots organisations, provide interim help in the form of financial assistance or other items, depending on their needs.

MSF is strengthening social : service delivery to improve access to help. We are working towards more cross-agency sharing of information, co-locating complementary help services and progressively equipping front-line officers across Government and community agencies with better knowledge of various help schemes and services. This will help those in need receive more holistic assistance no matter which agency they first approach.

Everyone can play a part in helping vulnerable and low-income families. Members of the public who come across those who need help can call the ComCare hotline on 1800-222-0000 or visit our nearest SSO or FSC.

Kong Kum Peck (Ms)

ComCare and Social Support Division Ministry of Social and Family Development

# **OnFacebook**

What changes in the cleaning and security sectors can make jobs easier for the elderly?

The elderly should not be given such jobs any more. Why not something more productive like gardening or urban farming? It's still physically engaging enough but not as strenuous or dangerous. And the products will be something they can use or sell. **Grace Cong** 

Shorter hours would be good without the "compulsory" overtime for security officers. Siti Nor'aini AS

Shorten the existing full shift to half a shift to give the elderly more time to recuperate. Cut down working hours in their later years with retirement annuity to supplement a lower income. Yong Yun Fui

Shorter flexible working hours, hourly pay and better incentives for full attendance, free meals, dental and medical benefits. Kok Mei Hui

First, reduce business taxes and overheads so that the elderly can be employed with sufficient pay for decent living as cleaners. Allan Tan

Should companies implement smoke-free policies?

It is difficult to have a yes or no answer. If a company employs a smoke-free environment, how much will that affect productive employees who might rely on regular puffs in order to be productive? **Eric Choo** 

Just give non-smokers extra days

**Lim Yock Bing** 

Prepare proper designated smoking areas. **Marcus Timothy Lim** 

# Range of checks, services keep buses in good condition

We thank Mr Desmond Teo for his letter (Renewal of bus services needed too; Jan 2).

All public buses on our roads must meet noise and exhaust emission standards, which are enforced through the Land Transport Authority's (LTA) stringent procurement specifications for bus vendors.

LTA also has strict maintenance requirements and six-monthly inspections to ensure that our buses are roadworthy and safe. In addition, when buses are halfway through their 17-year lifespan, they get a total refurbishment. Also, critical components are regularly checked and overhauled.

Our bus fleet has also been renewed and upgraded. More than 2,000 new buses (inclusive of Bus Service Enhancement Programme buses) have been purchased over the past five years, and 80 per cent of the fleet is less than midway through their lifespan.

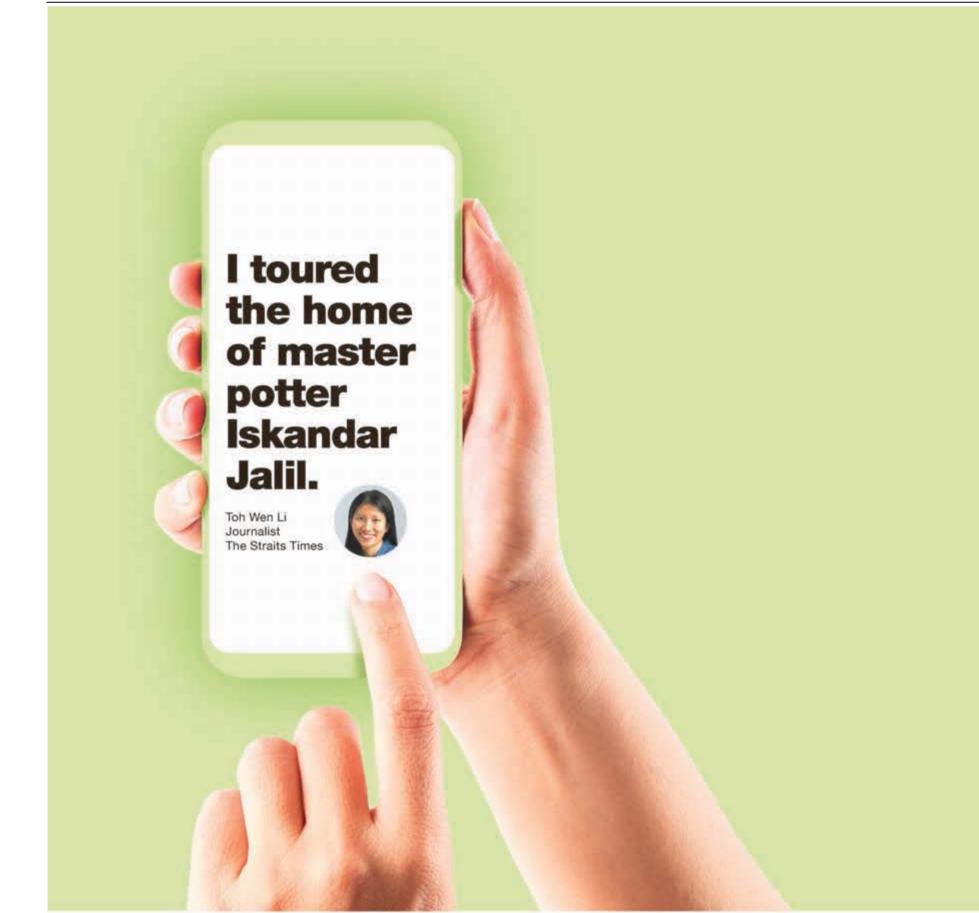
Additionally, all buses purchased since Jan 1, 2018, meet the Euro VI emission standard, the strictest emission standard currently used worldwide.

LTA is also testing diesel hybrid and electric buses, which are quieter and cleaner, to assess their feasibility for wider deployment.

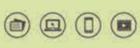
Under the bus contracting model, LTA owns the buses, determines the services to be provided and sets service standards, while the bus operators operate the services, as well as manage and maintain the buses owned by LTA.

Feedback from commuters, including those on specific buses with problems, will be taken seriously and looked into jointly between LTA and the operators. Goh Puay San (Ms)

Director, Bus Infrastructure & Assets Land Transport Authority



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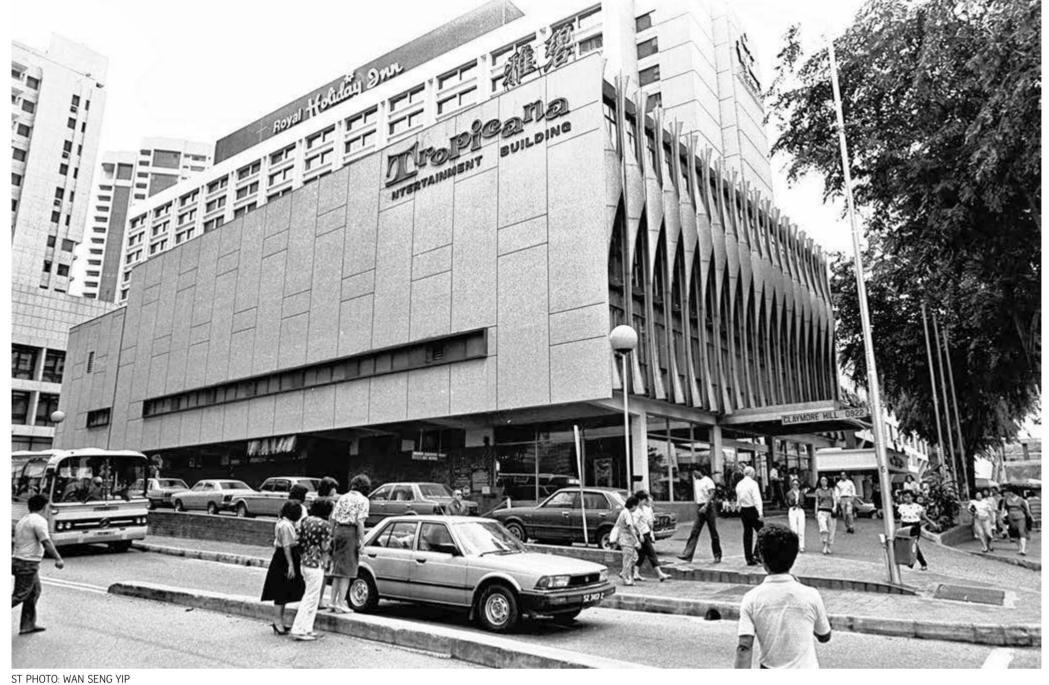








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# Cabaret in the tropics

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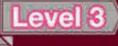




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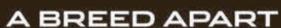
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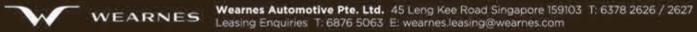
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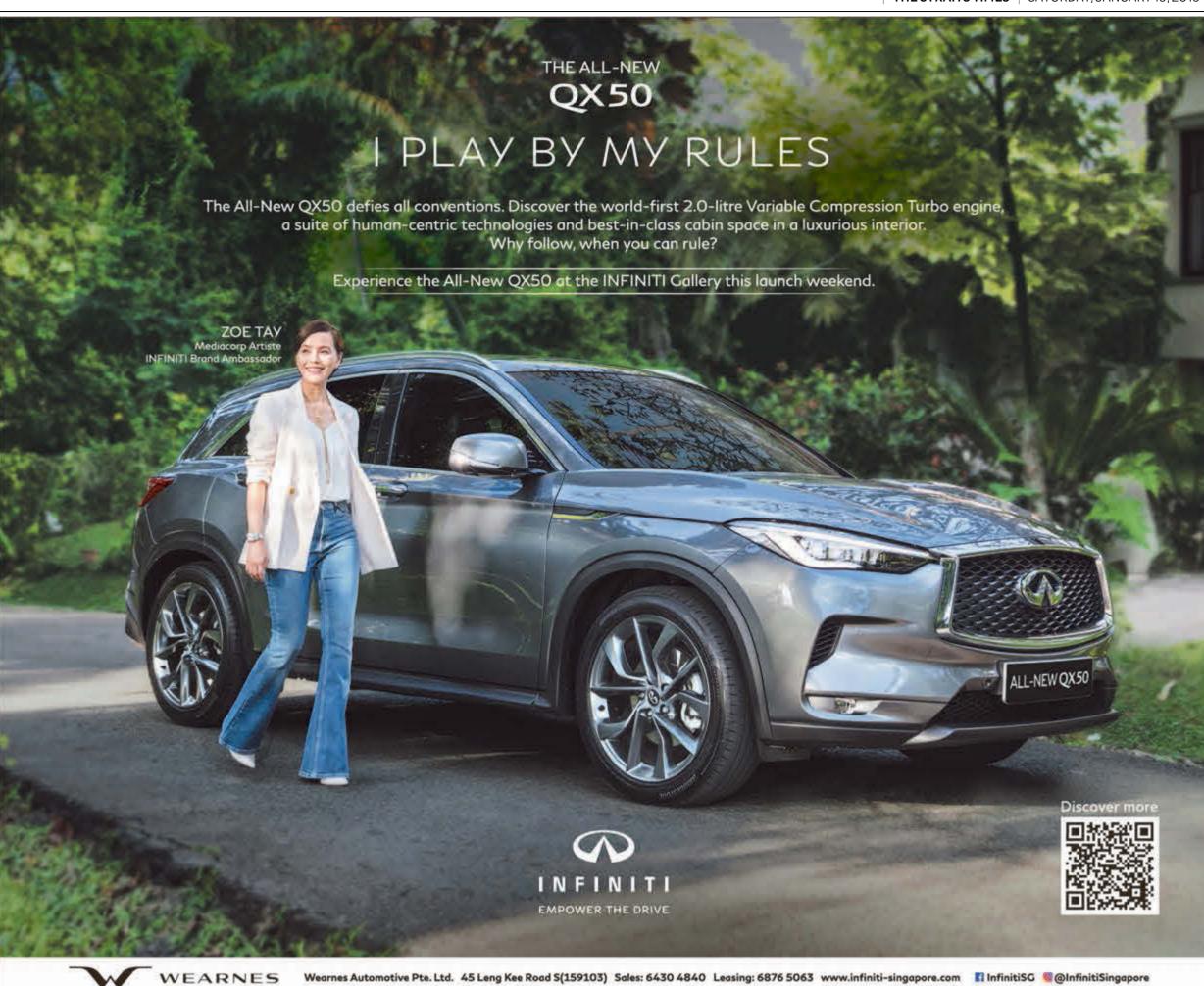




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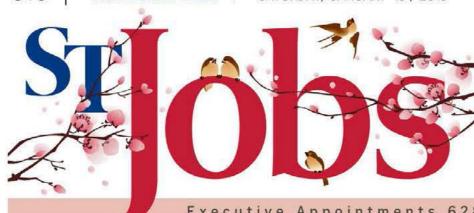
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> Shaun Ng Executive Project Engineer Rolling Stock Projects



"The most rewarding part of my job is the opportunity to experience and learn at various stages of the project, from conception to completion. Being highly involved gives me a great sense of ownership over the project and an even greater sense of satisfaction on seeing its successful completion.

Isabella Yeo Deputy Project Manager,





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> MR TAN WEE SIANG air traffic control officer Civil Aviation Authority of

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me the skill sets needed to undertake a

# Challenging but exciting

greater variety of assignments."

ATCOs work in shifts of one-and-a-half hours with 30 minutes of rest in between, shares Mr Tan. They have to maintain a high level of concentration and vigilance to ensure smooth air traffic flow, so these breaks are essential for them to refresh their minds and restore their focus.

No two days are alike, thanks to the changing weather and aircraft patterns from day to day. Monsoons can pose a challenge, as bad weather can cause departing planes to request a change in departure profile or arriving planes to execute missed approaches.

While these incidents are normal, they require ATCOs to be on their toes to adapt to the changing circumstances and coordinate their responses as team.

"Knowing that I am part of a great team that ensures safe and efficient air traffic flow in crowded skies gives me a sense of pride," he says, adding: "I feel a great sense of achievement and accomplishment at the end of a day's work. It is satisfying to know that I have helped many passengers complete their travel transits without any

BY JOSHUA WONG

hangi Airport is one of the world's busiest airports, seeing over 60 million passengers yearly. Behind the scenes, there are many people who contribute to its smooth and efficient running. Mr Tan Wee Siang (above) is one of them.

The 31-year-old aerodrome air traffic control officer (ATCO) with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) guides pilots through different phases of each flight — from leaving the parking bay to take-off, and from the final approach into Changi until touchdown and parking at the designated berth.

With so many flights taking off and landing simultaneously, Mr Tan's role is crucial to ensure the smooth and safe flow of air traffic.

"Air traffic control is a dynamic job. The daily changes in weather and the many aircraft transiting in Singapore make it a challenging but exciting role, and I look forward to my work each day," he says.

### Finding his wings

Mr Tan has been comfortable around aeroplanes from an early age. His father worked in the aviation manufacturing industry, and his family regularly went on outings to Changi Airport and the biennial Singapore Airshows.

His interest in aviation did not wane, and after graduating from university, he decided to work in air traffic control - a job that would involve him directly in flight operations.

Joining CAAS in 2013, he spent a year on probation, attending training courses that equipped him with the knowledge and practical skills to become a full-fledged ATCO. These included theory classes, simulator training and on-thejob training at operational units.

After completing further courses in 2016 and 2017, he was qualified to provide air traffic control services at both Changi and Seletar Airports.

Says Mr Tan: "As an employer that

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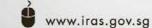
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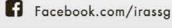


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# On the cutting cutting

Infocomm specialist Jonathan Yee develops solutions that keep IRAS systems up to date

# BY JOSHUA WONG

supportive working environment, meaningful work and the ability to innovate creatively are some of the reasons Mr Jonathan Yee loves his job.

The 29-year-old infocomm specialist at the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) works with a team on innovating software used by the tax system to keep pace with the latest developments and be as efficient and effective as possible.

"Joining IRAS is about wanting to do meaningful work that benefits society. If you have a passion to contribute and are interested in government-to-citizen work that can make a difference to the experiences of millions, then this is the place for you," he says.

**Learning and growing**Mr Yee pursued a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) at Carnegie Mellon University from 2011 to 2015 under the auspices of the IRAS Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship.

Prior to leaving for his studies in America in 2011, he did a sixmonth internship with IRAS, during which he worked on the Tech Refresh project — an update to the Inland Revenue Interactive



I learnt that it is fine in IRAS to constantly question the status quo. This is the kind of work culture that I wanted to learn and grow in.

> MR JONATHAN YEE infocomm specialist Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

that processes 66.2 per cent of the Government's operating revenue.

"Through working on this project, I learnt that it is fine in IRAS to constantly question the status quo. This is the kind of work culture that I wanted to learn and grow in,' he says.

After graduating from university, Mr Yee started work at IRAS in July 2015 as an infocomm officer. He had the opportunity to rotate to different teams and projects, providing him exposure to different environments and new technologies.

In 2016, he joined the Infocomm Application branch to introduce Agile methodology—a style of soft-ware development—to IRAS, then in 2017 moved to the Enterprise Digital Solutions Branch to help drive the adoption of Application

Network (IRIN), an IRAS system Programming Interface (a tool that allows different types of software to communicate with each other).

As his career progressed, his skillset expanded. Each employee sets aside 14 days per year on average to attend training courses.

Mr Yee has attended various courses and conferences, such as the week-long The Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF) and the International Association of Software Architects (IASA) certification courses, and the Gartner Catalyst Symposium held in San Diego late last year, where he networked with global industry

## **Embracing change**

He was promoted to an infocomm specialist in 2017, and returned to work on the first project he had Google," he adds.

ever done with IRAS — an update to IRIN. He and his team are currently running a proof-of-concept project to create a foundation base for IRIN 3.0.

"The current technology landscape has an abundance of options for building reliable systems in a cost-effective and efficient way. My challenge today is to find the best solution for IRAS," he says.

"I encourage people to join IRAS because there are many exciting initiatives happening now. We are transforming and looking at new technologies, pursuing innovation and experimentation, and working to create a future-forward tax system for the nation's 4.6 million taxpayers. Putting technology to work for such purposes is just as meaningful as creating the next Facebook or

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SINGAPORE

# For the **lOVE** of Singapore

Assistant director Victor Hui finds fulfilment representing Singapore in his role at MFA

### BY JOSHUA WONG

The cameras were rolling as the two ministers approached each other - but the interpreter was nowhere in sight. Yet thanks to the timely intervention and linguistic skills of Mr Victor Hui, the meeting between the Singaporean and Japanese officials went without a hitch.

Smoothing the diplomatic path is part and parcel of his job. The 34-year-old assistant director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is driven not by profit, but by principles and a desire to serve Singapore.

After a brief stint in the private sector

following graduation, he realised that a career in the public service would be more meaningful for him - and he has not looked back since.

"I am proud to be a Singaporean, and proud of Singapore's accomplishments. Like a salesman who takes pride in his product, I enjoy promoting Singapore to my foreign contacts," he says.

"My MFA colleagues are some of the most brilliant and dedicated people in Singapore; working with them makes my job all the more interesting and satisfying."

### Wanting to make a difference

Mr Hui has always been interested in the politics and cultures of other countries. He graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2010 with a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sociology.

Wanting to make a difference, he decided to join the public service. His interest in foreign societies made MFA a natural choice, and he joined in March 2011.

Starting out as a desk officer in the Climate



through participating at international negotiations like the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference.

South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa Directorate

He was posted to the Singapore Embassy in Japan in 2015 as a first secretary, where he served until last year.

Change Office, Mr Hui gained exposure

Like a salesman who takes pride in his product, I

enjoy promoting Singapore to my foreign contacts.

MR VICTOR HUI

### **Building ties that bind**

As a political officer, his role requires him to put together analyses, make recommendations and implement policies. From responding to unexpected incidents to crafting long-term strategies, there is rarely a dull moment challenges that appear superficially similar may require different approaches.

A big part of his job is turning challenges into opportunities. For instance, when Japan was hit by natural disasters, Mr Hui and his colleagues organised fundraisers among the Singaporeans who lived in Japan, as a means for them to show support for their host coun-

He also helps to ensure that diplomatic events run smoothly. In 2016 - the 50th anniversary of Singapore-Japan diplomatic relations — both Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and then-President Tony Tan visited Japan. Mr Hui and his collengues spent months preparing for each visit, and he was proud that they both turned out to be great successes.

When asked about the people he works with, Mr Hui is full of praise.

"My colleagues at MFA have different strengths. Some are more reserved but have brilliant analytical minds; others have a gift for networking, with charisma that makes people open up to them," he says.

"The one fundamental quality we share is that we all want the best for Singapore."

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The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore's raison d'être is to develop the air hub and aviation industry in Singapore, expanding Singapore's links to the rest of the world. We enable opportunities through aviation, making connections, opening doors and enabling choices in people's lives.

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# Requirements:

- Be a Singaporean
- · Pass an aptitude test and a voice test
- · Ability to perform shift work

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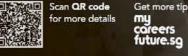
# (Q) Adapt & Grow

# 4 Questions Jobseekers Should Ask When Researching **Potential Employers**

When you are searching for jobs, it can be tempting to apply for the first job vacancy that comes your way But before applying, make sure you have answers to these key questions:

What does the future of the industry look like? Do your personality and skills match the role?

What does the company value? What is the future of the company?

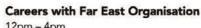


### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

EVENTS



 Jurong West Public Library – Level 1 Foyer · Queenstown Public Library - Level 1 Foyer Visit us at these locations for career guidance, and find out how to apply for available jobs



12pm - 4pm Lifelong Learning Institute, Level 3, LLibrary

**Positions Available:** Application Solutions Manager • Assistant Manager, Finance (Account Payable) • Guest

Service Assistant - Concierge • Reservations Sales Executive • Restaurant Manager • Sous Chef Register now: http://bit.ly/feojobs



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# WALK-IN INTERVIEWS



Wholesale Trade & Security Sectors 1pm - 4pm

WSG Careers Connect (Our Tampines Hub)

1 Tampines Walk, #04-32, Singapore 528523 Participating Employers: Advertent Security Consultancy Pte Ltd •

**Positions Available:** Customer Support Representative • Sales Engineer • Senior Security Officer • Security Officer • Store Assistant . Technician

Register now: http://bit.ly/wii2201



### Wholesale Trade & Hospitality Sectors

1pm - 4pm Jurong Regional Library

Beaver Contromatic Pte Ltd

21 Jurong East Central 1, Singapore 609732 Participating Employers: The British Club . Union Services (S'pore) Pte Ltd

Positions Available: Forklift Driver (Jurong Island) • Housekeeping Attendant • Prime Mover Driver (Jurong Island) • Retail Executive • Service Assistant

Register now: http://bit.ly/wii2901





Here's what you can look forward to reading this week in **The Sunday Times** 

### experience (Technical experience in the SAF is also considered); Applicants must possess Class 4 driving license. Those with Class 5 license would be an

2. AUTOMOTIVE QUALITY INSPECTORS

3. AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIANS

Perform incoming and final inspections to vehicles & equipment;
 Minimum NTC 2 in relevant automotive trade with at least 3 years relevant working

# Perform servicing and repairs to vehicles & equipment. Minimum NTC 3 in relevant automotive trade with at least 3 years relevant working

Minimum Diploma in Mechanical Engineering;
Project management and ensure contract deliverables;

Good analytical skills and able to communicate at all levels; Applicants having Class 3 driving license would be an advantage;

At least 3-5 years working experience in automotive trade.

Manage cost control, manpower deployment;

experience (Technical experience in the SAF is also considered);

Applicants having Class 3 and/or 4 driving license would be an advantage

# 4. ADMIN ASSISTANT/STOREKEEPER

Minimum 'O' Level or ITE certification in Office Skills or equivalent; At least 2 years of related working experience in automotive industry;
 Knowledge of SAF ES system would be an advantage;

Accounting of inventories, manage store, update account cards, receipt and issuance of

General Administrative Duties; Proficient in Microsoft Office and Excel.

Interested applicants who meet the above requirements may apply by email your updated resume to hr\_engrg@cwtlimited.com and indicate the position applied for on the subject matter. Kindly include your last drawn and expected salary, reason for leaving each employment and notice/availability period for priority processing.

We are an M&E Engineering specialist with over 35 years' experience in the industry and is part of an SGX-listed group that is expanding and want you to join us.

# **PROPERTY MANAGERS**

Degree in Mech/Elect. Engrg / Real Estate Mgmt / Building Services (or equivalent)
 Min 8 years' experience in building services / data centres facilities
 Possess bizSAFE Level 2, CERT training / WSQ Respond to Fire & HazMat Emergency and WSQ Implement Incident Managament Represses

Nosess bits and the a nazwat incident Management Processes
 Overall on Premise person-in-charge for property management services
 Responsible for maintenance and upgrading activities

M&E DESIGN MANAGER / ENGINEER

Degree in Mech/Elect Engrg (or equiv) with Autocad & preferably experience in M&E consultancy firms
 Responsible for the engineering calculation and submissions required for the project and reviewing

Responsible for the engineering calculation and submissions required for the project and reviewing equipment / material selection
 Checking & verification of ACMV & / or elect system design & preparation of typical installation shop drawings

PROJECT MANAGER / ENGINEER (ACMV / ELECT)

 Degree /Diploma (or equivalent) in Mech/Elect. Engrg with min 5 years experience in building services
 Excellent interpersonal / technical skills & able to handle projects independently
 Good contacts with Singapore-based consultants, suppliers & contractors – an advantage
 Experience in chilled water system, ACMV, M&E services Tel: 6744 9388 Email: hr@koyotech.com

# **GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

- Eco-friendly options for everything from cleaning agents to feminine products
- Be a green traveller on Cempedak private island
- Minimise food waste by using ingredients like skin and bones

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# ensure patient safety.

Requirements Candidate must be AHPC registered

· Candidates with a background in Nuclear Medicine may be considered

Apply online at https://www.nccs.com.sg/careers

Please apply by 2 February 2019





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**NOTICES** 



We are a Singapore Global Trader Programme status company in the Tuna industry.

We are looking for suitable qualified candidate for the position of:

# ACCOUNTANT

This is a new managerial role, reporting to the Senior Manager - Consolidation.

- Main Responsibilities: · Assist in monthly consolidation of accounts, analyse group financial and statutory reports, review of some subsidiary's accounts etc.
- Other Ad hoc duties Requirements:

· University degree in Accountancy or equivalent

 Minimum 4 years of working experience in accounting/audit · Able to meet deadlines Good communications skills

Please email your applications and resume with personal photo, indicating expected salary to: hr@trimarinegroup.com 15 Fishery Port Road, Jurong

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C11 | THE STRAITS TIMES SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019 **Executive Appointments** 



# Be a part of an Evolving Mediascape

Incorporated in 1984, main board-listed Singapore Press Holdings Ltd (SPH) is Asia's leading media organisation, engaging minds and enriching lives across multiple languages and platforms.

SPH's core business is publishing of newspapers, magazines and books in both print and digital editions. It also owns other digital products, online classifieds, radio stations and outdoor media.

On the property front, SPH owns 70% in a real estate investment trust called SPH REIT which comprises Paragon, a premier upscale retail mall and medical suite/office property in Orchard Road and The Clementi Mall, a mid-market suburban mall.

SPH also owns and operates The Seletar Mall. It built an upmarket residential condominium, Sky@eleven, at Thomson Road, and is developing a new commercial cum residential site at Woodleigh Road. It also has a stake in Chinatown

It is in the aged care sector and owns Orange Valley. Singapore's largest private nursing home operator. SPH runs a regional events and conferences arm, and a chain of Buzz retail outlets. It also invested in the education

business. For more information, please visit www.sph.com.sg

We invite you to be part of this team and join us as:

# 1) MARKETING EXECUTIVE (CHINESE PUBLICATIONS SUBSCRIPTIONS)

- · The incumbent will be responsible for planning marketing strategies for SPH publications, namely Lianhe Wanbao and Shin Min Daily News.
- · Strategize and execute above-the-line and below-the-line marketing campaigns.
- Provide analysis and reports on post-campaign results. Build and manage relations with internal stakeholders as well as external partners, such as retail chain and channel
- partners, sponsors and others. · Produce concepts for creative artwork, and run effective publicity across traditional and digital media.
- Plan and execute subscription events according to requirements, target audience and objectives.
- Come up with suggestions to enhance the campaign's success · Prepare budgets and ensure adherence
- Source and negotiate with vendors and suppliers
- Coordinate all operations Lead promotional activities for the event

# Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree
- · Experience in marketing and FMCG retail chain related industries are a plus.
- · Possess a good understanding of customer behavior and segmentation in B2B and B2C sector
- · Proficient with Excel, Word, PowerPoint.
- · Have prior experience with digital media platforms that includes results monitoring
- · Need to be fluent in Chinese (both spoken and written) Self-disciplined and motivated, with strong time and project management skills.
- Strategic thinker with strong analytical, problem solving and communication skills.
- This is a hands-on role requiring a great deal of independence, maturity and commercial mindedness.

# 2) MANAGER / ASSISTANT MANAGER, STRATEGIC PLANNING

We are looking for a strategic planner to join our robust Strategy team within Integrated Marketing division in SPH focusing on media and advertising. You will be involved in helping the division design a path to growth and profitability in an established pioneer media company that owns multiple media platforms.

The role of the Strategic Planning Manager is to derive insights from internal and external data to help identify key opportunities and develop scenario analysis and action plans.

We do expect you to be well-versed in both digital and non-digital media channels across the world of TV, print, digital, radio, out-of-home, and other touch-points. You must like both the art and science of media; and can work with numbers and data to derive great strategies and stories. We invite you to learn more about this dynamic, cerebral career opportunity. If you believe you fit the DNA of the person we want, contact us now.

# The Job:

- · The position is a strategy role supporting advertising sales at SPH
- Key scope includes supporting SPH, integrated marketing division (IMD) to develop, evolve and/or design a path to growth and profitability amidst competition and constant change.
- · Responsibilities include :-
- · Gathering and analyzing industry information and internal business plans to spot opportunities and identify action plans
- Track competitive trends, develop scenario analysis
- Develop analysis into presentations; with presentation to senior management

· Participate in ideation and brainstorming with Sales, product teams, newsroom and external vendors/partners to develop partnerships or media directions with the goal of business growth.

This role will require the individual to have:-

- At least 3-4 years of relevant working experience
- · Strong media knowledge across online and offline media Good media planning capabilities and ability to provide
- evaluation and strategy based on insights (Consumer, Media, Competitive status etc) · Understands marketing and advertising principles with
- focus on customers, markets and technologies will be a · Ability to conduct desk-top research where necessary to
- understand market landscape · Ability to work on several projects at the same time, often
- with different product owners.
- Ability to liaise with multiple parties across SPH such as Product Innovation & Pricing, Newsroom & Sales

### Requirements

- Knowledge of Nielsen Media Index, Adquest and/or Radio Adviser/ eRam and ComScore will be a plus
- Good command of MS Office including Excel, Powerpoint
- Strong number sense and meticulous in data details will be key in succeeding in this role
- Degree in Marketing or Advertising
- · Ability to present

## 3) ADVERTISING SALES ACCOUNT MANAGER/EXECUTIVE (INTEGRATED **MEDIA SOLUTIONS)**

### The Job

You will work closely with advertising agencies and advertisers to sell media solutions and promote SPH various media platforms, ranging from print, digital, radio and out-of-home media to various businesses. You will also develop and execute projects aimed at developing new businesses, building business volume and reinforcing our products in the market place. This is a hunter role. You will be expected to meet monthly sales targets.

## Requirements

- A degree in Marketing or Business
- Minimum 2 years of marketing and sales experience preferably in media advertising
- Effectively bilingual
- Ability to conceptualise, strategise, present and execute creative ideas
- · Outgoing, resourceful and self-motivated
- Excellent interpersonal and presentation skills
- · Ability to work in a dynamic and fast paced environment
- · Proficient with Excel and Powerpoint

# 4) BRAND CONTENT EDITOR/WRITER/PROJECT LEAD

Sweet is a full-service Creative and Content Agency that also provides ROI Services. A recently integrated business unit bringing together Brand New Media, Content Lab, Creative Lab and Think, Sweet is fully owned by SPH and managed by an experienced and dynamic Leadership Team. Sweet will deliver a world-class service for clients, featuring a superstar team of strategists, creators, writers, designers and producers, and backed by SPH's deep consumer insights and access to audiences across multiple media platforms.

# The Job

- · Oversee, edit and write on-brand and compelling copy across sectors.
- · Create and craft content across various formats for print, digital, social, audio and other platforms.
- Strategise execution of innovative content strategies across digital and social media channels.
- Conceptualise campaigns that deliver client messages
- effectively, and that resonate with the desired audiences. Work with internal stakeholders and clients to develop
- pitches and brand content campaigns. Work closely with client, internal stakeholders and other
- content creators to ensure timely and effective delivery of campaigns following platform best practices. Collaborate with Sales, design, tech and campaign teams to
- nsure content meets client objectives.
- Push for creative and innovative ways of storytelling across platforms. Monitor trends in the digital media landscape.
- · Optimise campaigns through use of audience insights, data and performance analysis.
- · Manage and lead small teams, develop talent and mentor junior content creators.
- Manage freelance writers to ensure copy meets guidelines, is on-brand and delivered on time.
- · Manage projects from start to end

# Requirements

- · At least five years of working in a newsroom, producing both print and digital content.
- Versatile journalist who has covered a range of beats. Knowledge of business, finance, policy and medical/health sectors a plus.
- · Curious, well-read and informed. Able to engage on an intellectual level, but write clearly, succinctly and simply.
- Has excellent editing and copy-editing skills.

- Accurate, meticulous, has good editorial judgment and understanding of copyright/libel/media laws and
- · Able to think visually: Have good photo sense, understand how to break content down into digestible parts through stories, graphics, photos, video and other visuals.
- · Able to think digital and social to create compelling
- Able to multitask and adapt role to specific project needs.
- Experience in project management. Is a keen observer of media developments and can adapt
- quickly to rapid changes in the digital and social landscape. · Ability to use data and insights a plus.
- Efficient, organised, able to meet tight deadlines and work on multiple projects at any time.
- Strong communicator and team player who can work well with other stakeholders.

# 5) MANAGER/ASSISTANT MANAGER, **CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS & CSR**

### The Job

The Corporate Communications & CSR Division of SPH leads the development and implementation of strategic communication plans in line with the company's corporate goals and business objectives. It also drives SPH's corporate social responsibility initiatives, including supporting the SPH Foundation and helming the Staff Volunteers Club.

This position is ideal for a creative, energetic, and outgoing individual with a passion for a whole range of corporate communications functions. As a member of the dynamic team, the successful candidate will play an important role in managing the company's corporate identity and branding, crafting internal and external communication materials such as media releases, annual report, and stories in our staff newsletters, as well as engaging in media and public relations.

In addition, he/she will also be involved in the organising, co-ordinating and hosting of a variety of corporate events, including facilitating visits to the company's headquarters and other operating centres.

If you thrive on variety and challenge in an exciting environment, this job is for you.

# Requirements

- · Degree in Mass Communications/Arts or other relevant fields
- 4 years of relevant work experience in journalism, marketing, branding or public relations
- Good spoken and written English is a prerequisite
- Proficiency in a second language is an advantage . Good understanding of online and social media tools and
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Confident, mature, resourceful and able to work independently

Interested applicants, please email resume to sphtalent@sph.com.sq (for positions 1 to 5)

# 6) ENGINEER (BASED AT SPH PRINT **CENTRE. 2 JURONG PORT ROAD)**

Reporting to the Engineering Manager, this position is responsible for planning/overseeing projects, and machinery maintenance/troubleshooting.

# Requirements

- A Degree in Electrical/Electronic, Mechanical Engineering or its equivalent
- Strong leadership and problem solving skills Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Able to work in a fast paced environment
- Able to work on rotating shifts

# 7) EXECUTIVE / SENIOR EXECUTIVE (OPERATIONS) (BASED AT SPH PRINT CENTRE, 2 JURONG PORT ROAD)

Reporting to the Production Manager, this position is responsible for the planning / supervision of newspaper printing operations and establishing new operation techniques to produce new print products. Selected candidates will work on traditional offset printing machinery as well as latest digital press capable of producing variable print products.

# Requirements

- · A Degree in Engineering or Manufacturing Technical knowledge with man-management skills to
- ensure maximum system efficiency · Innovative to establish alternative working methods

 Able to work on rotating shifts Interested applicants, please email resume to

hropsprd@sph.com.sg (for positions 6 to 7) (Only shortlisted candidates will be notified)

